



# ***Daily Report***

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## **Near East & South Asia**

FBIS-NES-94-168  
Tuesday  
30 August 1994

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# Daily Report

## Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-168

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30 August 1994

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Jordanian-Israeli Dead Sea Talks Conclude

#### Officials 'Hint' at Slowing Pace

TA2908165594 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew  
29 Aug 94 p 13

[Report by 'Ada Kohen and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpts] Jordan has started slowing down the pace of the bilateral talks with Israel, MA'ARIV learned yesterday from Jordanian officials who summed up the first day of talks at the Dead Sea Spa on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea. The sources hint that they intend to, eventually, attain a tete-a-tete summit meeting between King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin in which the two will solve the main problems—borders and water.

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation told MA'ARIV last night: "We want to focus on and clarify each and every detail no matter how small, and not to leave unclear matters for last." He added that the Jordan River is the border between the two countries and that "our rights to its waters equal yours."

Eytan Ben-Tzur, deputy Foreign Ministry director general and deputy head of the Israeli delegation said: "We should get used to the fact that the complexity and profusion of the issues discussed entail prolonged negotiations. The Israelis and the Jordanians are called upon to exercise patience." [passage omitted]

Central Jordanian participants in the joint committees are not hiding the fact that doing business with Israel will only be possible after a peace contract is signed. All the issues discussed today are merely "an exchange of opinions and ideas." That includes joint projects for the development of the 'Arava Valley and the Dead Sea, joint marketing of tourism packages, commercial cooperation, and the currently discussed giant project for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley that includes a large park in the 'Arava and a canal linking the Red Sea and the Dead Sea. [passage omitted]

#### Al-Tarawinah: Talks 'Going Well'

JN2908141194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli committees reconvened at the Dead Sea Hotel in Jordan today to investigate border, land, water, and tourist issues, and the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. Jamal al-'Abbadi reports from the site of the talks:

[Begin al-'Abbadi recording] The bilateral talks between Jordan and Israel and three-way talks grouping Jordanian, American, and Israeli officials resumed at the technical committee level today. Jordan's chief negotiator Fayiz al-Tarawinah notes that the talks are going well. He observed that, judged against their work load, the committees are making good progress, especially

regarding a plan to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. Al-Tarawinah hoped agreement will be reached on specific projects before they are submitted for perusal to donor bodies. He indicated that the tourist committee and bilateral and trilateral committees yesterday covered much ground. Jordan's chief negotiator held out the promise of further progress. Subcommittees and general committees, he added, are focusing on the more important item of the border.

For his part, the Israeli chief delegate Elyaqim Rubinstein said the intention is to keep looking for common ground.

Meanwhile, tourist agents from Jordan and Israel today met here at the Dead Sea Hotel. The Jordanians were familiarized by their Israeli counterparts with tourist possibilities in Israel. Two weeks ago, the Jordanian side outlined a scenario of future cooperation in the tourist sector. Al-Tarawinah noted the importance of the tourist sector to the public perception of peace. He was echoed by his Israeli counterpart, who emphasized that the Israelis were looking forward to cooperation in the tourist sector with stable and secure states. The talks are slated to conclude this evening. [end recording]

#### Delegates Hold News Conference

JN2908165194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The current round of Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks and the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli trilateral meetings concluded at the Dead Sea Hotel this evening. The heads of the three delegation held a news conference at the conclusion of the meetings. Details in a dispatch sent by our team:

[Begin Jamal al-'Abbadi recording] At the conclusion of the talks, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation; Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation; and Mrs. Jane Buchmiller for the United States, held a news conference. Members of delegations attended.

At the outset of the conference, Dr. al-Tarawinah gave the floor to the U.S. representative, who read a joint statement on the outcome of the trilateral talks. The head of the U.S. delegation said that the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli experts meetings discussed in subcommittees the issues related to tourism, transportation, customs, economy, and the master plan to develop the Jordan Valley. She said: As regards the Jordan Valley plan, the experts from the three parties exchanged working plans which we will discuss in the next few months in an attempt to reach an agreement on this plan.

She noted that many achievements were scored in the field of tourism, pointing out that the Jordanian-Israeli tourism committee will meet on 12 and 13 September in Israel to discuss marketing of tourism.

Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein said the meetings of the trilateral committee were fruitful. He said: We look forward to the future meetings. He noted that every new meeting adds yet another brick to the structure of peace.

Later, the heads of delegations answered reporters' questions on the outcome of the talks and a number of related issues. We will bring you further details in a later cast. [end recording]

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian negotiating team, and Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, met with General Dani Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the PLO, who arrived unexpectedly at the Dead Sea Hotel this afternoon.

Gen. Rothschild briefed Dr. al-Tarawinah on the details of the agreement to hand over power to the Palestinians in five fields in the West Bank. The agreement was signed this morning by Gen. Rothschild and Nabil Sha'th, the PLO's chief negotiator.

#### **Israel, PLO Sign Early Empowerment Agreement**

TA2908123394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Near the Erez checkpoint, the Israeli and PLO delegates this morning signed the agreement giving the Palestinians control over several key civil areas. The ceremony was delayed because the PLO representative, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, was angry over Israel's refusal to allow entry to the Gaza Strip of a Pakistani ambassador. At the coordinating and contact headquarters is reporter Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th arrived late to the signing ceremony at Erez this morning, angry over Israel's refusal to allow Pakistan's ambassador in Cairo to visit the Gaza Strip. Sha'th described the move as a big mistake by the Israeli Government but, he said, the agreement would not be delayed.

[Sha'th] Yesterday was a gross violation of the agreement. I think what had happened will hurt very much the attempts by the Government of Israel to normalize relations with Islamic countries, which I think is totally uncalled for.

[Gur-Arye] Sha'th and Major General Dani Rothschild signed the agreement giving Palestinians in the rest of the West Bank control over major aspects of day-to-day life. In addition to education, social and cultural affairs, and tourism, the agreement outlines the Palestinians' own taxation plan and it allows for operation of the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho. But, no date is set for implementation of the agreement. That's because early empowerment will cost the Palestinians \$30 to 40 million in the first six months, and the money is scarce. Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild:

[Rothschild] Budgetary issues—we want to be sure that there is sufficient budget to allow those systems to work, and not to collapse after a month. That's why we agreed jointly to approach the donors and to see that money will be available to the five spheres which are going to be transferred.

[Gur-Arye] International donor countries will convene next week in Paris to decide if and when to hand over money already pledged to the Palestinians. Following that conference, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will meet again to set a day for implementation of today's agreement. [end recording]

#### **Islamic Affairs**

#### **ICO Official Discusses Cairo Conference, Bosnia**

LD2908143594 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—The secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO], Hamid al-Gabid, said that the proposed draft for the population conference in Cairo had aspects which were contrary to Islam.

In an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES', al-Gabid said, "I can single out three major aspects in the Cairo population draft which are contrary to the Islamic sharia."

He referred to the provision of abortion, premarital relations and giving unlimited freedom to children with no pressure from parents as the anti-Islamic factors to be proposed in Cairo population conference.

"These reasons, all Muslim countries believe that the anti-Islamic provisions should be omitted from the population draft," he said, adding that Muslim delegates to attend the conference will make necessary amendments.

Al-Gabid, here to participate in the international seminar on Bosnia-Herzegovina, also noted that all member states of the United Nations would participate in the Cairo conference and that if the Islamic nations find themselves in the minority, they should keep a distance from the resolution.

On Bosnia-Herzegovina, the secretary general pointed to the latest meeting of the OIC contact group in Geneva, adding "We have decided to review the reaction of the Western countries on current events in that Balkan state and we are waiting for a firm decision of the Security Council which is supposed to review the proposal for lifting the embargo."

He added that if the Security Council refused to lift the arms embargo, every country would be free to decide unilaterally.

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The OIC official further said that the present uncertain situation in Afghanistan hindered the leaders of various factions from coming to the negotiation table.

Al-Gabid expressed regret that, despite all efforts, Kabul was devastated by bombs, and stressed that the solution to Afghanistan problem was political and nothing else.

The 'TEHRAN TIMES' also interviewed the grand mufti of the Oman Sultanate, Sheikh Ahmad Bin Hamad al-Khalili, who is in Tehran to attend the seventh Islamic unity conference (August 24-6).

He, too, believed that the Cairo draft was opposite to Islamic regulations and said "This conference in Cairo has very dangerous dimensions, whose underlying aim is to destroy Islamic values and impose the corrupt culture of the West on Muslim societies. There is no doubt that we strongly reject everything which tends to undermine our beliefs, values and ethics."

Commenting on the steps Iran could take to enforce Islamic unity, the sheikh remarked that the Islamic unity conference was a good step in this direction, since it provided the chance for ulema of different Islamic schools to assemble and state their viewpoints.

"Iran, no doubt, has taken the lead to remove the undue suspicions against each other among the different schools," he concluded.

### Palestinian Affairs

#### Figures Further React to Pakistani Envoy Incident

##### 'Arafat Expresses 'Rage'

TA2908141994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat says that an investigation into the Ramla murder is under way, and that he believes the murderers are members of the Islamic Jihad, not Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He made the remarks in a conversation with Meretz Knesset Member [MK] Dedi Zucker when they met this afternoon in Gaza.

In the meeting, The PLO chairman expressed his rage over the fact that the Pakistani envoy was not allowed to enter the Gaza Strip. MK Zucker promised 'Arafat that he will see the prime minister about this affair.

##### Arab League Envoy Scores Rebuff

NC2908141894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Mr. Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's representative to the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, has described Israel's decision to prevent the Pakistani ambassador in Cairo from entering the Gaza Strip and meeting Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat as an unwise measure.

He said that such a measure does not serve the peace process. It also casts doubt on Israel's commitment to noninterference in the internal affairs of the Palestinian National Authority.

He added that such measures also help complicate relations between the two sides and harm these two ambassadors respective countries.

The Israeli authorities prevented the Pakistani ambassador in Cairo from entering the Gaza Strip to prepare for Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the Strip. This led her to postpone her visit.

[Paris AFP in English in a Cairo-dated item carried at 1225 GMT on 29 August adds the following:

"A meeting of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) due to be held in Cairo Tuesday [30 August] has been postponed until further notice, a PLO official said here Monday.

"Muhammad Subayh, Palestinian representative at the Cairo-based Arab League, said the postponement was due to the PLO leadership being busy with other issues, notably a dispute with Israel over a planned visit to Gaza by the Pakistani ambassador.

"The PECDAR meeting was to assess how much money the Palestinian Authority needed to assume its new civilian responsibilities in the West Bank.

"The Palestinian Authority protested to Israel on Sunday after Pakistani ambassador to Egypt Mansoor Allam was stopped at the Rafah crossing point, and reportedly waited for nine hours.

"The diplomat had planned to go to the autonomous Gaza Strip to prepare for a visit there by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. It would be the first such visit by a foreign head of government since autonomy was launched in May.

"Palestinian leaders have the right to receive whom-ever they want," said Subayh, adding that "such measures only serve to poison relations between the PLO and Israel."

##### Bhutto 'Determined' To Visit

JN2908174394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto has stated that she is determined to visit the Palestinian National authority [PNA] areas in spite of the Israeli stand opposing the visit.

A Pakistani Government statement said that Bhutto will visit on the set date to meet with President Yasir 'Arafat and get acquainted with the Palestinian's state of affairs.

The Israeli Government had asked that Mrs. Bhutto obtain Israel's agreement to the visit. However, the

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Pakistani Foreign Ministry rejected this, affirming that the responsibility of administering the PNA areas is a Palestinian responsibility.

#### 'Urayqat Views Powers Transfer, Pakistani Envoy

JN2908181494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic  
1415 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, "minister of local government" in the PNA, by correspondent Kamal 'Alawinah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Alawinah] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, good evening.

['Urayqat] Good afternoon.

['Alawinah] Dr. Sa'ib, the signing of the transfer of civil authority agreement today means the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] will assume a great responsibility for running the daily life of the Palestinian people. Is the PNA prepared from the financial and functional side?

['Urayqat] I believe the answer to this question is yes, we are fully prepared. These bodies are completely administered and operated by a Palestinian staff. God willing, Palestinian taxes will be enough, and even in excess of the amounts needed for these establishments.

['Alawinah] Dr. Sa'ib, the implementation of the agreement on the ground means there are two authorities in the occupied Palestinian territories: the national authority and occupation authority. This situation might cause some undesired friction, such as in the area of taxes. How can such a situation be dealt with?

['Urayqat] We must view the issue of transferring authority as a step, only a step on the road, a step not separated from other steps. This part is called the transfer of functions, which should be immediately followed by parallel negotiations very speedily, by elections, the redeployment of Israeli troops, and a revision of laws. This step, according to the agreement, comes within a series of steps. This means there will be two authorities on the ground, as you say, if this step is a goal in itself. This step must be followed, as provided in the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement, by steps that include first and foremost the redeployment of Israeli troops and withdrawal from the rest of the West Bank's cities, elections, and the revision of the laws. If Israel procrastinates in these matters, I believe this will lead to problems for the entire agreement.

['Alawinah] Dr. Sa'ib, what is the truth concerning relations with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas?

['Urayqat] We are the sons of people whose political life is based on political pluralism. The Palestinian opposition, including Hamas, is a respectable section of our people. Dialogue and only dialogue is the mechanism of interaction inside the Palestinian house. Regardless of

the amount of pressure, no opportunity should be given to any party to move toward internal fighting. This principle is prohibited and rejected, as frequently stressed by President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on every occasion and in every cabinet session. Once again, we are talking about a society based on democracy, which means political pluralism, respect for all opinions, and relying on dialogue as the only means to address all issues related to the Palestinian people.

['Alawinah] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the Israeli authorities refused entry to the Pakistani ambassador at the Rafah border crossing. How do you comment on this?

['Urayqat] I believe that this is diplomatic impudence which is completely unacceptable. We strongly condemn it. It violates the agreement. This shows that Israeli intentions in the peace process are characterized by procrastination, taking measures that reach diplomatic impudence, which we strongly condemn.

['Alawinah] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, thank you very much.

#### Views Early Empowerment, Future Steps

NC3008072094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510  
GMT 30 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, "minister of local government" in the PNA, in Jericho, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How do you view the Early Empowerment Agreement signed yesterday?

['Urayqat] It is a small but important step. The Cairo Agreement stipulated that early empowerment must immediately follow the effective date of the agreement, which came into effect the day it was signed, 4 May. It is a link in a long chain outlined in the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington. Now that powers have been transferred to the West Bank we must complete the negotiations as soon as possible and in parallel. That way the Israeli forces can be deployed elsewhere on the West Bank, elections can be held, and the military orders and laws can be revised so that we can hold the elections on the due date, that is, 15 December 1994.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What were the powers that were transferred to you?

['Urayqat] These powers are in the fields of health, education, social affairs, tourism, taxes, culture, sport, and youth.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction [PECDAR] will meet in Cairo today chaired by President 'Arafat. What are the subjects on the agenda?

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[Urayqat] The most important subject is that of implementing the projects agreed upon between the World Bank and the donor states and between PECJAR and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. You know that we have been unable to implement the projects that we were promised, that we prepared, and that were endorsed by the World Bank. So the meeting is very important, because to establish institutions and to enable the PNA to carry out its duty, there is an urgent need to begin implementing projects in the fields of water, electricity, agriculture, sewage, education, and the infrastructure, which has been destroyed, so that people can taste the fruit of peace. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al-'Aziz] There is a quadripartite committee grouping Egypt, Jordan, the PNA, and Israel to discuss the 1967 refugees. It was formed under UN Resolution 194. When will this committee meet?

[Urayqat] This committee was referred to in Article 9 of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington. We have repeatedly told the Israelis of the need for this committee to meet. When we were in Alexandria we met Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who voiced Egypt's full backing for the need to convene this committee. Palestinian-Jordanian contacts were held to set a date for the meeting and discuss the common mechanism for coordination among the three Arab parties. I believe that the great importance of this committee will mean it will meet soon.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Jerusalem is one of the important topics on the agenda of the 102d session of the Arab League Council, which will open in Cairo on 14 September. Will the Palestinian side offer something new at that meeting?

[Urayqat] The Palestinian position is known and firm and reflects the Arab position. East Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. Accordingly, it is covered by Resolution 242, which reiterated the inadmissibility of seizing others' territory by force. Thus we would like to emphasize at the meeting that the issue of Jerusalem is one of sovereignty and the withdrawal of Israeli troops. We want the Arab world to rally round this issue and to realize that the Israeli practices, such as continuing settlement, construction, and seizure of land, constitute the real danger facing Jerusalem.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] An agreement was signed yesterday to transfer power to the self-rule authority in the areas of health, education, social affairs, youth and sport, and culture. Should we expect more agreements at the same speed between you and the Israeli side?

[Urayqat] At the meeting in Alexandria on 17 August we handed the Israeli delegation five working papers on future steps, especially regarding the legislative elections and the redeployment of the Israeli troops. They promised to study the papers and get back to us but they have not yet done so, unfortunately. They have not set a date for a new round of negotiations on these issues. As I have

stated, the Declaration of Principles is coherent and combines a series of steps. We have completed the Gaza-Jericho step and the early empowerment step but the third step—elections, the redeployment of Israeli troops, and the revision of laws—must be taken so as to conclude an interim agreement in its final form and then start negotiations on the final stage, God willing.

[Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much.

[Urayqat] You are welcome.

#### **PLO To Assist Lebanon in Housing Displaced**

NC2908165294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT  
29 Aug 94

[Text] Tunis, 29 Aug (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, announced today that the PLO is perfectly willing to cooperate with the Lebanese Government in solving the issue of the displaced Palestinians residing in Lebanon in a manner that will guarantee that they are appropriately housed. He said this will enable the Lebanese citizens, in whose houses these displaced Palestinians are currently staying, to return to their homes. Qaddumi noted that he is speaking of the Palestinians who were displaced from the Tall al-Za'tar and Jisr al-Basha refugee camps and Khabiyat al-Kala.

Qaddumi added that the PLO appreciates the fraternal positions and good offices of the Lebanese Government and Refugee Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt to solve this problem. He declared that the PLO is willing to do all it can to facilitate this effort.

He explained that the PLO is contacting PLO leaders in Lebanon in order to ensure that they coordinate and cooperate with official Lebanese departments on this affair.

#### **'Arafat Receives Letter From U.S. Administration**

JN2708080994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic  
0630 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday met with the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem who delivered a letter from the U.S. Administration to President 'Arafat. The two sides discussed the issue of elections in the Palestinian territories and the developments in the peace process.

#### **'Abbas Said Planning 'Substitute for 'Arafat'**

JN2908143594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 29 Aug 94  
p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Fatah Central Committee member and PLO Executive Committee member, plans to return to Jericho via Jordan next week.

Reliable sources said Abu-Mazin decided to return and reside in Ramallah as a result of being pressured by

Shim'on Peres during their meeting in Morocco. Peres told Abu-Mazin that Israel cannot reach an understanding with Yasir 'Arafat, that the Palestinian Authority is very confused, and that the donor countries refuse to give aid to such a feeble authority.

The sources added that Abu-Mazin, who may form a substitute for 'Arafat, will seek to set up an institute for dialogue with the occupation authorities, the donor countries, and a large number of intellectuals and opposition figures in the West Bank and Gaza.

#### Opinion Poll Shows 'Arafat Has 'Solid Majority'

TA2508164594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] A public opinion poll among Palestinians shows support for Yasir 'Arafat remains strong despite his ban on critical newspapers. The Center for Palestine Research and Studies says over 38 percent would vote for 'Arafat's Fatah faction in elections. That was about three times greater than the support of any other party. The poll also indicated that 'Arafat could muster a solid majority with other groups. Only about one in six supported the radical Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, which opposed the peace process.

At the same time, nearly 70-percent of those polled opposed 'Arafat's ban on two newspaper which expressed pro-Jordanian positions.

#### PLA Recruits Disillusioned By 'Arafat, Peace

JN2108064694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 94 pp 1, 3

[By staff reporter Maryam M. Shahim]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) commander in Jordan, Brigadier Muhammad Qudsiyah on Saturday [20 August] thanked His Majesty King Husayn for his quick response to help the PLA's Badr Brigade after it was told to put its men on leave without pay until further notice.

"His Majesty reacted promptly to our request which he has always done. He has never left us at bay," Brig. Qudsiyah said.

King Husayn, responding to a request made to him by Brig. Qudsiyah, instructed Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali to pay the salaries and maintain the Badr Brigade in Jordan.

More than 2,200 members of the Jordanian-trained Badr Brigade, which initially numbered 3,300, are still in Jordan. They are unlikely to be transferred to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) enclaves in Jericho and Gaza as had been initially envisioned. Some 1,100 are serving in the various branches of the Palestinian security forces in Gaza.

Brig. Qudsiyah said his appeal to the King came after PNA President Yasir 'Arafat informed him that 1743 members of the brigade in Jordan could be retired, that an additional 246 should be put on an open-ended vacation without pay and that all additional salaries should be frozen for the moment.

The salaries for the PLA which are normally paid by the PLO "were consistently late," according to a member of the Brigade's finance department. The salaries for the PLA members for the month of June were the last to be paid to the servicemen by the PLA on Aug. 18.

"The problem was not only salaries which did come on time; it was the upkeep which was not being taken care of," Brig. Qudsiyah said.

In his instructions to Prime Minister al-Majali, the King asked that all "operational expenses" of the Badr Brigade be paid by the government. A cash-strapped PLA is barely making its ends meet in the self-rule areas and they don't have any money left over for us," said the member of the unit's finance department.

However, most members of the brigade who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity said that issues of politics and loyalty were the primary reasons behind Brig. Qudsiyah's appeal to the King. A few appeared not to agree with Brig. Qudsiyah's decision to appeal to the King. "Even if we are not happy with the status quo, this was a bad move at a time when Palestinian-Jordanian relations are strained," said one of them.

But the history of ties between the Badr Brigade and Jordan are older than a few months of delayed pay.

The first units of the PLA were founded in Gaza and Jordan in the 1950s. After 1970, several units of the PLA remained in Jordan and continued training as a Palestinian force against Israel in the Khaw training camp 40 kilometres north of Amman.

Most of the younger Palestinian recruits in the Badr Brigade have neither the ideological background nor the revolutionary spirit their predecessors had. Unlike their predecessors they were "looking for a job" and did not necessarily have any political inclinations when joining the PLA. These young men have also known no other home than Jordan.

Since the PLA members are almost exclusively drawn up from 1948 refugees, most do not feel that the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords or the Israeli-Jordanian agreement has addressed their plight, be it the right of return or compensation as guaranteed by U.N. Resolution 194.

Many, drawn from poor homes in refugee camps, want to "move up" and "move out of their economic misery." Three months after their colleagues were deployed in Gaza and Jericho, stories filtering back to Jordan were of a security force that was forced to depend on handouts from the people for their daily bread.

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This, says one PLA member who joined in the 1950s, "has brought great disillusionment" among the troops. "Now many would rather stay here in Jordan than go to Gaza or Jericho and beg."

Brig. Qudsiyah's appeal to King Husayn to "take care of the Badr Brigade" came like an answer to the prayers of many of the brigade's members.

"If 'Arafat does not want us we will stay here and serve here with the King as our leader," said a young recruit who joined the unit in 1993.

Far away from the battlefield and even further away from being assigned the task of building a nation, many of the Badr Brigade members appear content to remain in Jordan.

Mr. 'Arafat, according to some high-ranking PLA officials in Jordan, was always "wary" of the "Jordanianisation" of the brigade. All of the PLA's headquarters are decked with large photographs of King Husayn next to the picture of Mr. 'Arafat.

Mr. 'Arafat consciously chose older Badr Brigade members who had been "with him in Beirut" when he sent the first batches of the PLA members to Gaza and Jericho. Badr forces were stationed almost exclusively in Gaza—"as far away from Jordan as possible," as one lieutenant put it.

#### **Fatah Council Backs Autonomy, 'Arafat in Meeting**

TA2608152194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council convened in Gaza yesterday. This is the first meeting of the council in the autonomy area. This was learned by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem from senior Fatah sources. The council session, which was headed by Yasir 'Arafat, was attended by the heads of the Fatah supreme committees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Yasir 'Arafat reviewed the peace process and the problems which the Palestinian Authority is facing. The council members expressed full confidence in the Palestinian Authority and in Yasir 'Arafat, and stated their support for his policy.

#### **Poll Shows Decline in Support for Fatah**

TA2608113294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Aug 94 p A3

[Report by correspondent in the territories Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian newspaper AL-QUDS, which appears in East Jerusalem, refused to publish a public opinion poll conducted by the Center for Palestinian Research and Studies, which operates in the framework of al-Najah University in Nablus. The newspaper explained the refusal by saying that it does not publish reports on the AL-NAHAR daily, which was closed when

Yasir 'Arafat prohibited its publication because of its pro-Jordanian slant. [passage omitted]

The poll, which was conducted between 11 and 13 August among 1,562 West Bank and Gaza Strip residents, reveals an ongoing decline in public support for Fatah. Approximately 39 percent said they would vote for Fatah if general elections were held on the date of the poll. In the previous poll conducted in June, 41.7 percent said the same, and in the May poll, 44.4 percent indicated their preference for Fatah. Support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], however, has not changed significantly. Approximately 13.9 percent of the interviewees replied that they would vote for Hamas. Last month, 13.7 percent said the same.

The poll further indicates that the higher the level of education of the interviewees, the lower the support for Fatah. A coalition of principal opposition organizations (Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) garnered the support of 37.7 percent of students. A coalition of peace-supporting organizations had the support of 43.5 percent.

One of the findings indicates that 53 percent of the Palestinian public support the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho, while 36.4 percent have an unfavorable opinion of it. The most marked decline in the support for the Palestinian Authority was registered in the Jericho area, and the Palestinian Authority had greater support in Gaza than in the West Bank.

In reply to a question regarding jurisdiction over the Jerusalem holy sites in the context of the Israeli-Jordanian agreement, 44 percent believed that it will not affect the relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians or that it would affect it favorably. Some 40.6 percent believed the agreement would adversely affect this relationship. West Bank residents were more inclined than Gazans to accept joint Palestinian-Jordanian sovereignty over the holy places.

#### **Official on Ties With Jordan, Domestic Issues**

JN2708121894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, "minister of posts and telecommunications" in the PNA, by Musa Hawamidah: "at the conclusion of the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings" held in Amman 21-22 August]

[Excerpt] [Hawamidah] Why has there been such a delay in the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting? Are there differences?

[Al-Ashhab] Jordanian-Palestinian coordination was frozen. Six committees were formed, but they did not meet.

[Hawamidah] Why didn't they meet?

[Al-Ashhab] I do not know why. What happened was that the two sides did not meet. Several economic

meetings have been held. The latest one was held in May, at the end of which an agreement was reached. However, discussions did not continue. Therefore, now that the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] has entered Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian delegation's visit to Amman has been aimed at reactivating the committees and to begin finding mechanisms for implementing what has already been agreed upon and what may be agreed upon in the future. Fresh developments and the Washington Declaration necessitated a new meeting.

[Hawamidah] But I have learned that there are differences over economic, administrative, and security issues, are there differences over the issuance of Palestinian passports?

[Al-Ashhab] The administrative-security committee has discussed the passports issue. In his capacity as the interior minister, Ahmad al-Tamimi would know more about that issue.

[Hawamidah] I am asking you.

[Al-Ashhab] I understood that the passports issue needs more consideration. It has to be studied within the Arab League. The Palestinian passport will need to be approved by all Arab countries and endorsed by the Arab League.

[Hawamidah] Who says so?

[Al-Ashhab] The Jordanians.

[Hawamidah] Do you agree with that?

[Al-Ashhab] I believe that this is a sound idea, for the issue is not one of using the passport for travel only to Jordan. Rather, the passport should be approved by the Arab states so that Palestinians can enter any Arab country.

[Hawamidah] Do you believe that the Arab League disagrees?

[Al-Ashhab] I did not say that. I said the issue will need the Arab League's approval.

[Hawamidah] If the Arab League may disagree with it, why did you print passports? How many passports have you printed?

[Al-Ashhab] 500,000 passports.

[Hawamidah] Are they enough for 2 million Palestinians?

[Al-Ashhab] Yes, because passports are not issued for every individual, but for eligible persons only.

[Hawamidah] Are there differences with the Jordanians over the refugee issue?

[Al-Ashhab] In accordance with the Oslo and Cairo agreements, a Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian-Israeli committee has been set up to discuss the 1967 refugee issue. The issue is not only one of refugees who left as

result of war; there are also tens of thousands of people, especially students, who used to carry identification cards from the West Bank and Gaza and who, for one reason or another, lost them during travel. This covers about 800,000 people. It was agreed in Oslo to set up a committee to discuss, not the principle of their return, but how they will actually return. This four-way committee has not met. It has been agreed to reactivate the committee and to start discussing ways of return, timetables, and the number of those who will return.

[Hawamidah] Is there a disagreement with the Jordanian side over that?

[Al-Ashhab] There is no disagreement on this issue. What has happened is that the four-way committee did not meet—that's all.

[Hawamidah] Regarding the issue of religious jurisdiction over Jerusalem, has this issue been discussed?

[Al-Ashhab] This issue was discussed by the political committee.

[Hawamidah] What do you think?

[Al-Ashhab] I think that Jerusalem—land, people, and holy places—is occupied. The main issue is to liberate Jerusalem, rather than to whom custodianship should be given. We and the Jordanians do not disagree, but our efforts should focus on liberating the holy places.

[Hawamidah] I take it that the issue of jurisdiction has been shelved for the time being and will be discussed later?

[Al-Ashhab] I told you there is no disagreement with Jordan over the issue of holy places. We are partners in the same cause. Jerusalem is under occupation and we should unite our efforts to liberate it from the occupation.

[Hawamidah] What have you done since becoming head of postal services and telecommunications?

[Al-Ashhab] We have issued stamps, as stipulated in the agreement, however, our responsibility for postal services exists only in Jericho and Gaza.

[Hawamidah] Does being in charge mean that you will secure telephone lines with the outside?

[Al-Ashhab] Telephone calls have been secured from Gaza, Jericho, and the occupied territories. From a technical angle, these telephone lines are not under full Palestinian jurisdiction. They are supervised by the BEZEK company with which our telephone lines are linked. At some point, we will get our own special code which we can control. This is still controlled by the civilian administration. We are now linked to a main switchboard and a main computer under Israel's control. However, the collection of telephone fees is the responsibility of the [Palestinian] National Authority while the BEZEK company prepares the bills and sets the prices for the telephone calls.

[Hawamidah] What is preventing you from assuming the BEZEK company's tasks?

[Al-Ashhab] It is a question of financing.

[Hawamidah] So, Israel is not in the way?

[Al-Ashhab] No. We will be a 100 percent Palestinian establishment and we will separate from BEZEK and have total control. This requires negotiations with BEZEK until we assume its job. This is being negotiated with some private companies and will take some time.

[Hawamidah] Why do you not cooperate with the Jordanian side in this field?

[Al-Ashhab] This is what we came here for. I held a meeting with officials from the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation. They expressed their readiness to help us. The same thing happened with PNA Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi concerning customs. We asked the Jordanians to train some cadres. They showed willingness to provide the PNA with experts, administrators, and technicians to help it transfer these establishments to the PNA.

[Hawamidah] Is there an agreement on using stamps outside the self-rule areas?

[Al-Ashhab] In terms of postal services, the Israelis said that the PNA cannot use its own stamps and have them recognized unless it is accepted as a member of the Universal Postal Union [UPU]. There are two ways to be accepted as a new UPU member. One of them is for the PNA to become a member of the United Nations. If it is not a member, then two thirds of the UPU member states would have to accept it as a member.

Hence, the PNA will soon submit a membership application to the UPU. As for the Arab world, the PLO is already a member of the Arab League. This means that there is no problem with the Arab world. The issue will be discussed at the Arab League. Afterwards, we will send the letters to Jordan and Egypt.

[Hawamidah] Did you discuss this issue with the Jordanian side?

[Al-Ashhab] The Jordanian minister of communications expressed his willingness to distribute the letters.

[Hawamidah] When will you begin this.

[Al-Ashhab] The issue requires one or two visits to Amman. We will go there to discuss the issue with officials there in the next few days. [passage omitted]

#### **Security Officer: Palestinians Abiding by Agreement**

*TA2508121894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Text] Jibril al-Rujub, who is in charge of Palestinian security in the West Bank, says that the Palestinian Authority is abiding by the Israeli-PLO agreement, adding that there are no armed fugitives in Jericho. Our

correspondent reports that al-Rujub and six released prisoners who are residents of Jericho left for Gaza today in order to discuss the released prisoners problem with Yasir 'Arafat. The six received a special permit from the Israeli liaison office in Jericho.

Israeli security sources say, on the other hand, that some 25 Fatah fugitives are residing in Jericho. Most of them are suspected of murdering or attempting to murder collaborators. These fugitives are working for Jibril al-Rujub's security service and receive monthly salaries from him.

#### **Subayh Sets Conditions for PNC Meeting**

*NC2908122094 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p 11*

[Report by Salwa Abu-Sa'dah]

[Text] Muhammad Subayh, Palestinian ambassador to the Arab League and Palestine National Council [PNC] secretary, has stated that President Mubarak's meeting with president 'Arafat in Alexandria proved that there is high-level coordination between the two sides over the peace process in general. The meeting, he added, touched on the problems and concerns facing the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in the liberated areas of Gaza and Jericho, including the economic problem. He added: These areas are poor, aid is only trickling in, there is a delay on the part of donor states, and the new authority is facing shortages in everything.

Subayh spoke about specific practices by Israel, which does not want the PNA to succeed and which burdens it with demands, procrastination, provocations, and attempts to renege on what has been agreed upon in Oslo. He said that there has been no progress on the question of detainees and that the takeover of the crossings, which should have been done months ago, is being delayed. In the meantime, Palestinians continue to suffer from waiting for long hours, he added, noting that even the Palestinians Israel had agreed to let in, including sick people, have been standing at the borders for three months and have been denied entry. He added: In addition to this, there is the question of the provocations of the Jewish settlers in Gaza, as well as the issue of the secure corridor linking Gaza and Jericho. Israel continues to create problems regarding this corridor because it does not want Palestinian policemen to pass through carrying their arms, in violation of what has been agreed upon, he added. President 'Arafat raised all these concerns, in addition to the questions of the Jericho area, customs, and taxes, during his meeting with President Mubarak to try to resolve them with the Israeli side.

On the results of Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] meeting with United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid in Geneva, Subayh said that President Mubarak made a considerable contribution to the success of this meeting. He added: It is no secret to say that President Mubarak intervened several months ago to improve the PLO's ties with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states as part

of efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere. The UAE is expected to support the PNA and transfer funds deducted from Palestinians [working in the UAE] to the PNA, he added.

On 'Arafat's quick visit to Tunis and his meeting with Fatah leaders, Subayh said: The purpose of the visit was to meet with Fatah Central Committee members, particularly following reports about official and nonofficial meetings to discuss issues related to the PNA, relations within Fatah, and inter-Arab ties. President 'Arafat explained the latest developments in the occupied territories, relations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the economic situation, the difficulties facing the PNA, and Fatah's conditions abroad.

Asked about contradictory positions maintained by some Palestinian leaders, Subayh said: Of course there are differences in views, and this is not a secret. There are differences about how to approach and run the negotiations and about the administration of the PNA. There are several opinions, one by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], another by Nabil Sha'th, a third by Hani al-Hasan, and a fourth by Faruq Qaddumi. They all fall under the canopy of the peace process. They are all useful interpretations, although sometimes they create an uproar. But in the end, the decision will be up to the Central Committee, which represents the leadership of the ruling party, if I may use this term.

Regarding the Palestinian-Israeli difference over the convening of the PNC and whether or not a PNC meeting will be held, Subayh said: Israel now demands the need to convene a PNC session to introduce changes to the national charter, something that requires the presence of two-thirds of the members and special procedures. However, Israel continues to place obstacles and create difficulties. It is preventing PNC members from entering. This was confirmed a few days ago by an official Israeli spokesman, who said that PNC members who had been denied entry to Gaza and the self-rule areas may attend the session but must leave immediately after the meeting in view of their anti-Israeli feelings and past actions. Israel has no right to make such a demand. In fact, this demand ruins the peace process. The PNC will not meet as long as there is a single Israeli soldier on the Palestinian territories. Those providing protection for the members and security for the meeting must be from the Palestinian police.

Regarding the conditions that need to be met for a possible meeting of the PNC, Subayh listed: 1) freedom of entry and permanent residence for those members wishing to stay; 2) security and protection by Palestinians at the crossing points and inside the Palestinian territories; 3) early empowerment of the PNA, since the Palestinian people have agreed to hold the meeting on the PNA's territory.

On the Palestinian delegation's visit to Amman and what has been done regarding Jerusalem, Subayh said that the

Palestinian leadership wanted to deny Israel the opportunity to use this card, to show that the rights in Jerusalem are sovereign rights, and to emphasize that the dispute is not a Jordanian-Palestinian dispute but a struggle with Israel, which is occupying Jerusalem, which is part of the occupied territories.

Regarding the prospects for a visit to Jerusalem by King Husayn, Subayh said that the visit is likely to be postponed, thanks to some recent inter-Arab contacts calling on the king to wait before making the visit.

#### **Gaza Cleric Calls For Continuation of Jihad**

TA2608133394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] In the Friday sermon at the Filastin Mosque in Gaza, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr called for the continuation of the Jihad, saying that nobody will be able to stop it. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Shaykh Bahr criticized comments made by the commander of the Palestinian police, General Nasr Yusuf, who told Qol Yisra'el that he can detain 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam fugitives. He called him instead to pursue the settlers, drunkards, and collaborators.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] sources say that the Palestinian security forces detained a Hamas activist who was painting graffiti in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood.

#### **PLA Leader on Palestinian Radio 'Fabrications'**

JN2008081594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Aug 94 p 21

[Text] Voice of Palestine, run by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], yesterday evening carried the following report: "The statement attributed to Brigadier General Muhammad Qudsiyah that the Badr Forces have not received their allocations is a false claim because the PLO has disbursed allocations to the Palestinian forces stationed in Jordan."

Reacting to this report, Brig. Gen. Muhammad Qudsiyah [commander of the Badr Forces of the Palestine Liberation Army, PLA, in Jordan], stated the following to the Jordanian News Agency: The Badr Forces have not received all the financial allocations they need for months. This prompted these forces to appeal to His Majesty King Husayn for help and support in making available the necessary funds to enable these forces to continue to perform their duties.

He added that the expenses of the Badr Forces are not confined to salaries only; they also include food, fuel, oil, periodic maintenance of military vehicles and equipment, weapons, and other expenses. He pointed out that only three days ago, he received salaries for June and that these salaries are part of the overall financial allocations needed by those forces.

He said: I have all the correspondence and documents that provide conclusive evidence that we have not

received all of our allocations. His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PNA, sent me a written order on 16 August 1994 saying "Open leave is to be given to everybody.... new members are not to be recruited until further notice." Qudsiyah added: Jawid al-Ghusayn, head of the Palestine National Fund, told me when I met him on 15 August in Amman that his excellency the president wants to give the larger part of the Badr Forces leave without pay.

Brig. Gen. Muhammad Qudsiyah added: I sent a letter on 15 August to his excellency the president appealing to him to work seriously to preserve these forces so that they can carry out their duties and future missions on the homeland's soil when it becomes larger in the next stage. I explained to his excellency that giving the personnel of the Badr Forces open leave without pay would affect the military preparedness of the personnel and will result in their losing discipline and their sense of belonging. Those personnel are responsible for families who number in the thousands. This means the livelihood of those families and their children will be affected. However, I was surprised by his excellency's reply to give them open leave.

He added: We had expected this radio to carry thanks and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn, who has

ordered that all necessary measures be taken to take care of the Badr Forces and provide them with all the necessary support, training needs, and allocations so they can perform their duties and overcome the difficult stage they are going through.

Brig. Gen. Qudsiyah said: We had hoped that this radio and other Palestinian news media and officials would express gratitude for His Majesty King Husayn's step toward his sons and brothers of the personnel of these forces—a step which would enable us to continue to perform our mission and protect our families.

He added: This is not the first time Jordan has extended full support and backing to the PLA forces in Jordan. Jordan had extended support to these forces during 1976-1980.

Brig. Gen. Qudsiyah went on: The delay in disbursing the salaries and allowances is not only confined to the PLA forces in Jordan. It includes all PLA forces in the Arab world, which are suffering from the same difficulties.

He added: We will not reply to the fabrications and vituperations of the radio, not because we cannot reply, but out of self-respect and adherence to the good manners we have learned from His Majesty King Husayn, who brought us up on good manners.

## Algeria

### Border With Morocco Completely Closed

*LD2908222294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic  
2200 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] It has been learned from a source close to the Interior Ministry that the Algerian-Moroccan border was closed in its entirety as of today at 1800 [1700 GMT]. [passage omitted]

### Zeroual Leaves for Two-Day Official Visit to Libya

*LD3008104094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic  
0900 GMT 30 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] President Liamine Zeroual this morning headed for Libya on a two-day official visit at the invitation of leader of the Libyan revolution, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi. [passage omitted]

President Liamine Zeroual will attend, at the end of this visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

### Foreign Minister on Mali Taureg Problem

*LD2508182294 Paris Radio France International in French  
1230 GMT 25 Aug 94*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Jean-Jacques Louarne on 25 August; place not given—recorded; first paragraph is announcer introduction]

[Text] The Tuareg problem is the subject of the second part of this news bulletin. Our guest today is the Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri. He took part in a meeting of the six countries affected by this problem—in other words Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, of course, Algeria, Libya, and Mauritania—in Bamako, Mali, on Monday and Tuesday [22, 23 August]. At the same time as this two day meeting was being held, an agreement was signed between Mali, Algeria, the UNHCR, and the IFAD—the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The agreement concerns the repatriation of 35,000 to 45,000 Malian Tuaregs who have taken refuge in Algeria. Let me remind you that Algeria is a mediator in this Malian Tuareg conflict. Jean-Jacques Louarne thus asked Mohamed Salah Dembri how he analyzed this Tuareg question:

[Dembri] I believe that as far as the African continent is concerned we have to explain things in terms of a general transition theory. All of the African countries are affected, let us say, by the need to move toward a pluralist democracy and also a market economy. This cannot be done without extraordinary tension. These problems are linked to the social substructure. When our societies, for example, have a substructure that is still quite archaic, then sometimes there is trouble. This is the case with Somalia, Mozambique, Rwanda—we have seen this kind of trouble.

Is the Tuareg problem one that is basically political, or is it a developmental problem? There are all these aspects combined, which appear, for example, in the need for the decentralization of political and economic life, but also in the need to promote much more stable and intensive development of certain parts of the Sahel-Sahara region. The same phenomenon is occurring in Niger, and I should also say that all the countries of the Maghreb and the countries of the Sahel-Sahara region are experiencing this kind of difficulty to some extent, but it is obvious that if we want to guarantee the three-fold aim of peace, security, and development, we must have a much stronger concept of mutual aid and collective solidarity.

[Louarne] You have been received by the Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare. You said that the analysis that he developed when talking with you was a revelation. What exactly do you mean by this?

[Dembri] President Konare is developing a concept of a collective future in the region, which seems to me to be extremely important. We are facing a certain set of conditions and these conditions need to be overcome, even if constraints of an internal political nature arise in the particular societies created in the Sahel-Sahara region. It is clear that President Konare's political concept is closely akin to our own, in other words we must develop an integrated space with sound economic complementarity, which in any case permits all of the people to flourish by restoring the traditional channels of trade.

[Louarne] Algeria intends to play an important role, and is playing this role in the sub-region, in spite of its internal problems. Would you agree to the United Nations taking part—in a manner that has yet to be defined—in the settlement of the Tuareg problem?

[Dembri] The Organization of African Unity is also a body of united nations—this should not be forgotten—consequently we have specific African skills in forestalling, handling, and settling the conflicts that may arise here and there. I believe that within the overall context of the UN Charter, provision has been made for us to be able to develop all the mediation skills that are to be found here and there in liaison with the regional organizations. It is, of course, in this capacity that we are making our contribution, whatever the difficulties we may be experiencing in other areas. What country does not have its problems at present? We believe that questions such as what is happening at present throughout our sphere can be settled more easily among ourselves, in liaison with authorities outside Africa that retain an interest in the promotion of a broad system of cooperation. So, we can act together to develop African mediation skills and, in the most favorable scenario, organize a collective future.

[Louarne] The importance of the role that Libya could play in the conflict is stressed. Is it not the case that Tripoli is seen as a kind of second-line mediator country?

[Dembri] Yes, there can be no one-upmanship in this matter. The only important thing is for us to be proceeding toward the same objective. Any proposal aimed at promoting peace, stability, and development will be welcomed. Other countries are also interested in joining this consultation process; I am thinking in particular about the whole of the Sahel region on the Guinea side, Gambia—we have had many proposals on which we will take a decision in our capacity as foreign ministers in November 1994. In fact the question of expansion does arise.

[Louarne] In Mali, the national pact is suffering difficulties. The latest negotiations in Algiers and in Tamanrasset seem very far. [sentence as heard] The Azawad united front movements are currently meeting in Tamanrasset under the aegis of Algeria. Do you have any particular information about this Tamanrasset meeting?

[Dembri] Your analysis of the situation seems to me to be rather pessimistic. An undertaking of such breadth can experience tensions, problems, in its implementation. I believe that is the way things go, but it is nevertheless a plan for national reconciliation, a plan for regional development, a decentralization plan. This is once again linked to the specific problems of transition being experienced by Mali and being experienced by all the other countries, including Algeria. This transition is also taking place under specific, difficult conditions. It is thus necessary that at government level the consultation process should be a permanent one, but also at the level of the protagonists on the scene, and this is the aim of the Tamanrasset meeting—from time to time there needs to be meetings to direct particular attention once again to the most important objectives and away from peripheral matters.

**Tunisian Ennahda Leader: Country 'Ripe for Change'**

NC2608113894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 3

[Commentary by Tunisia's Ennahda leader Rached Ghannouchi: "Algeria Is Ripe for Change"]

[Text] Events in Algeria are much more than isolated assassination attempts waged by extremist and lawless groups reminiscent of Italy's Red Brigades or Japan's Red Army. It is a full-fledged Islamic popular revolution rumbling with a force transcending the roar of any particular party. The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] was only in existence for two or three years when the revolution took off. A look at armed rebellion shows that the ability of a modern state apparatus to crush an armed party rebellion depends on the social climate.

Armed military groups can trigger off a revolution. But the bonfire of revolution cannot be sustained unless sufficient inflammable material is available. The revolution under way in Algeria today is a true one for it combines incandescence with durability and pervasiveness. As long as this is the case the conclusion is foregone: The revolution will win and its adversaries will lose.

The Islamic revolution in Algeria has much on its side. It has a revolutionary doctrine derived from the Islamic legacy of jihad and martyrdom. It has a slogan and a goal—establishing an Islamic state. It has a strong cause, due to the military clique canceling elections that expressed the popular will. The Algerian public is adamant about change and utterly disillusioned with the secular cliques that have ruled the country. Since the eighties, Algeria's corrupt ruling clique has, while enriching itself, impoverished one of the richest countries, a country with a great revolutionary legacy. This revolutionary legacy is now tipping the balance of power in that country.

This conclusion is reinforced by an international climate that is reconciled with imminent Islamic change in Algeria and American, British, German, and Italian statements urging dialogue and change in Algeria.

What we have here is a bankrupt authority, internally divided and internationally isolated, with the notable exception of France. France, despite its geographical proximity, has been less able than its Western partners to tolerate Algeria's independence, abandon its own imperialist ways, and deal objectively and sensibly with an Arab Maghreb that is edging closer to Islam, democracy, and true independence. Its failure to do so will not hold back social change. A revolution is under way in Algeria and it is about to win.

We call on the concerned parties in Algeria to seek an end to the bloodletting and contain the spreading fire through the prompt release of [FIS leader] Shaykh 'Abbassi Madani and [FIS deputy leader] Shaykh Ali Belhadj. The Algerian authorities should then open a dialogue with these two men about reviving the ballot box. The past three years show that time is against the regime. Why deny the obvious?

**Presidency Statement on Parties' Use of Media**

LD2908181194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The Presidency issued the following statement today:

During his negotiations with the political parties within the framework of the national dialogue, President Liamine Zeroual reaffirmed the freedom to use the public media within the framework of current laws and regulations. The president added that in order to clarify any ambiguity over this issue, presidential instructions would be issued. Therefore, the president issued the following instruction. The text of it is:

Presidential Decree No. 9244 dated 9 February and relating to the state of emergency, by no means stipulates obstructing political activities or freedom of expression for the legitimate political parties.

During the first Council of Ministers' meeting on 28 February 1994, over which I presided, I pointed out that

a varied media represents one of the gains of democracy in our country. I added that media organs have a role in promoting and defending democracy. They also have a role in preserving the higher interests of the nation. I also stressed that freedom of expression goes with the responsible contacts away from media blackout and manipulations.

In the same vein I stressed to the political parties on the occasion of the national dialogue that the use of media organs was possible and guaranteed it for them within the framework of the laws and regulations that are in force. To clear up any ambiguity regarding this issue I would like for you to emphasize to the officials concerned that they should make public media organs completely available to the political parties within the framework of respecting basic freedoms in accordance with Articles 35, 36, 39, and 40 of the Constitution and in accordance with Article 10 of media law.

#### **'Numerous' Fires at Educational Sites Reported**

LD2508182494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] The national press has reported today the news that the medical college in Darguina was the target of a criminal fire. According to initial information, an armed group broke into the site of the college and set fire to the administrative wing and some of the educational wings. The firemen hurried to put out the fire, but the value of the fire's losses have so far not been revealed. To remind you, numerous educational and training establishments have been the target of criminal fires these days.

### **Egypt**

#### **Musa Leaves on 2-Day Visit to Israel**

NC3008085894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Arm Musa left Cairo for Israel today on a two-day official visit. Musa said he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

#### **Carries Message to Rabin**

NC2908132894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Arm Musa has stated that he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his visit to Israel tomorrow.

Musa said in a statement today that the talks he will hold with Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will address several issues, the most important of which are subjects relating to the peace process and the stages of the negotiations as well as action within the framework of the process.

He added that they will also discuss other important subjects that require direct talks.

#### **Washington's Approval Said Linked to Ties With Israel**

NC3008064894 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Aug 94 p 13

[Article by al-Sayyid al-Babili: "The Road to Washington"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration is weak and hesitant regarding all international problems, including the dispute with Cuba, the Bosnian issue, and Haiti. However, it is firm and clear on how to deal with the Arabs: The road to Washington's heart passes through Tel Aviv.

The Arabs dealt with all former U.S. administrations directly in their attempts to reach a solution with Tel Aviv. The current administration, however, believes that the Arabs must first solve their problems with Israel and then direct their steps towards Washington.

The Arab leaders who formerly publicly opposed negotiations with Israel now understand the message and realize that there is very little room for maneuvering. There is no USSR now. The Arabs have nothing to depend on; they are torn apart by their infighting and some current inter-Arab hatreds exceed the hate for Israel. The oil is in the hands of U.S. companies. The whole affair is now settled and a new reality exists to which everyone must adapt or else face domestic problems, war with neighboring countries, or calamities of some kind.

For this reason, King Husayn hastened to reach an agreement with Israel in "exceedingly friendly" negotiations full of amity and appreciation. Yitzhaq Rabin's attentiveness to Husayn was very clear and significant. In this way the king obtained Washington's approval, secured the cancellation of his country's debts to the United States, and prepared for a new economic phase with Israel to salvage his deteriorating economy.

Several Arab Gulf countries hastened to receive with warmth the Israeli delegations participating in the multilateral talks in a manner suggesting that these countries will establish diplomatic ties with Israel at the appropriate time. Their objective is also clear: To obtain Washington's approval and continued protection. Indeed, the first Arab country to announce actual joint ventures with Israel was a Gulf country seeking to export natural gas to it.

Even Anouar Haddam—chairman of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front's [FIS] diplomatic mission abroad and the man being prepared to lead Algeria if the FIS seizes power, a likely possibility according to some Western reports—is currently in the United States and has avoided directing any accusations at Israel or speaking of Islamic jihad to liberate Islamic sanctities.

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He avoided doing any such thing during a lengthy interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in its 21 August issue.

Saddam Husayn's turn then came to pass through the royal gate to Washington after his earlier efforts to end the international economic sanctions failed and after Washington rejected all his offers. After understanding the U.S. message, Saddam decided to knock on Tel Aviv's door. Iraq remained silent about the recent Jordanian-Israeli agreement. [Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz told the UN Security Council that in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Iraq no longer had a justification to regard Israel as the nation's enemy.

Libya's al-Qadhafi now remains, seeking an independent path. They probably will not stop asking him to hand over the "Lockerbie incident" suspects to put them on trial and implicate the Libyan regime unless he chooses the same path and joins the group knocking at Tel Aviv's door to obtain Washington's pardon.

May God have mercy on your soul, O Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat. You understood the game pretty well. The others were fighting the windmills.

#### **Libya's Al-Qadhafi Phones Mubarak**

NC2808190794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT  
28 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Libyan Revolution Leader brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi today. During the conversation, the two leaders discussed the developments in the Arab relations and the ongoing efforts to clear the air among Arabs.

President Mubarak congratulated the brother leader and the Libyan people on the 25th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

#### **Morocco, Gulf Nations Consulted on Iraqi Reconciliation Bid**

NC2908201794 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 25 Aug 94 p 1

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak returned to the homeland yesterday following a lightning visit to Switzerland, during which he held extensive and successful talks with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates. Their talks in Geneva dealt chiefly with their joint efforts to clear up inter-Arab differences.

Informed diplomatic sources have told a correspondent of AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I that Iraq recently sent a message to Egypt via Morocco asking it to act urgently to clear up the differences between Iraq and the Gulf countries, including Kuwait. The message said that Iraq is willing to accept all relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The sources added that Iraq declared its willingness to cooperate with Egypt and the Arab League and make all possible efforts to secure its return to Arab ranks. Iraq requested direct Egyptian mediation.

The message contains three main points, the first of which involves Baghdad's recognition of the border demarcation plan with Kuwait in line with the decision of the concerned UN committee. It says Iraq is willing to settle all disputes with Kuwait, either by means of bilateral negotiations to be held at a mutually acceptable venue, arranged through an Arab League committee, or through the United Nations.

The sources explained that Iraq also expressed its willingness to settle the issue of the Kuwaiti and the Arab POW's through a special Arab commission that would hold negotiations with the Interior and Transport Ministries on this affair. Iraq added that all files pertaining to POW's were lost during the Iraqi forces' evacuation of Kuwait during the war. In addition, the Interior Ministry building in Baghdad was destroyed by bombing raids.

The Iraqi initiative's third point refers to Iraq's willingness to abide by all relevant UN Security Council resolutions issued since the invasion of Kuwait, including its agreement to allow long-term inspection of all its nuclear installations.

The sources said Egypt is currently in contact with Morocco and several Gulf countries to discuss in detail the provisions of the Iraqi initiative and prepare a response to it in the next few weeks after agreeing on a collective Arab position on the Iraqi request for reconciliation and on means to make Iraq abide by its promises. [passage omitted]

#### **Muslim Brotherhood Leader Opposes ICPD Conference**

BR2908131494 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 29 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with Ahmad Fifi al-Islam Hasan al-Bannah, leader of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, by Barbara Stefanelli; place and date not given: "Muslim Brotherhood: We Will Halt Blasphemers"—first two paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[Text] "We are accused of being allies of the Vatican in this war against the 'Conference of Satan.' Well, I say, why not? From Abraham to Muhammad, we have always been close—links in the same chain—against paganism. We pursue different paths, but our aim is the same: to say 'no' to the perversions of the modern age."

The idea of a Holy Alliance between the two great monotheistic religions excites lawyer Ahmad Fifi al-Islam Hasan al-Bannah. His name is as long as his family's importance is exceptional. His father, Hasan al-Ban, was the founder of the "Muslim Brotherhood," the historic fundamentalist movement in Egypt. His grandfather was a shaykh, the author of 7,000 pages of interpretation of

the Koran. And now, at the age of 50, with a degree in jurisprudence and one in Arabic culture, it is his turn to continue fighting under the crossed swords of militant Islam.

[Stefanelli] You are the promoter of a legal initiative to halt the conference. What are the "blasphemous" points cited in your appeal to the Cairo courts?

[Al-Bannah] I do not know whether we will succeed in halting the conference. Even if the judges do rule in our favor, President Mubarak will be able to appeal, and time is on his side. We are asking that at least certain topics be removed from the agenda for the meetings. That there be no discussion on Egyptian soil of abortion, homosexuality, AIDS, contraceptives, or free sex! We will struggle to ensure that our land is not sullied by these words and by those who utter them.

[Stefanelli] Is this an indirect threat?

[Al-Bannah] Cairo is the capital of the Islamic world: How can it host a conference that offends the shari'ah, our law? It is an impossible marriage, and we do not want it. Here in Egypt there is a state of emergency; it is impossible to organize public rallies. We do know, however, that the people are with us: Disorder will be inevitable.

[Stefanelli] But the grand mufti, Shaykh Muhammad Sayid Tantawi, has blessed the UN conference and justified abortion. In the past traditional Islamic law has been tolerant of contraception.

[Al-Bannah] There is a great difference between birth control before conception and after. We know that 120 days after conception the soul resides in the fetus: The spirit is there. To wrest it from that body is absolutely forbidden. Abortion can only be justified in order to save the mother's life. But the operation must be carried out under the supervision of a good Muslim doctor.

[Stefanelli] Let us leave abortion, which the UN conference does not indicate as a method of contraception. Do you not think that it would help your country's development to reduce the population's birth rate?

[Al-Bannah] I see no problem of overpopulation here in Egypt. The Arab nations have enough money: They have petrodollars which, having been deposited in banks or reinvested for years, are now yielding good returns. So let us use those funds, take our experts, and return to the land. The land of Africa, as fertile as that of Sudan. We are able to feed not only our own people, but other peoples, too.

Rather than coming to talk to us about family planning and development systems formulated in abstract terms who knows where, why do the Western countries not stop obstructing our renaissance? Why do they drag us into their wars, such as that against Iraq; why do they not cancel the debts that they imposed on us through their neocolonialist policies?

[Stefanelli] So do you too believe that this conference is yet another crusade?

[Al-Bannah] Everyone here in Egypt says that there is a plan to impose a single civilization on the entire world. Al-Sharawi, a great interpreter of the Koran (he has a television program every Friday which has an audience of 30 million—CORRIERE DELLA SERA editor's note) has urged Muslims and Egyptians to protect their diversity and superiority. I say that the final word lies with the participants in the conference: If the "no" front is strong, nobody can impose anything on us.

[Stefanelli] Are you not perhaps afraid of a social revolution, in view of the fact that the conference centers everything on women's choice?

[Al-Bannah] We disagree with this business of parity. Islam has placed women in a superior category: Muslim women have been free and independent for 15 centuries. Why should we follow the example of Western women, so dependent on their husbands in material matters?

[Stefanelli] Is it true that there is a fatwa against homosexuals?

[Al-Bannah] I do not know whether there is such a fatwa. I do know that there is a law banning homosexuality: I expect the government to act accordingly.

### 79 Detained To 'Ensure the Safety' of ICPD

NC2908180594 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood [MB] has called on the Interior Ministry to release 79 of its members who have been detained.

An MB spokesman stated that the security organs organized a campaign to arrest its members in nine governorates last week. The MB also called on the prosecutor general to issue orders to speed up decisions on the detainees who are being investigated by his office.

The spokesman said that the detainees have been deprived of their legal rights to contact their relatives and to meet their lawyers. He added that they have not been accused of any serious charges. He noted that the security organs arrested them just prior to the convocation of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] as part of a campaign to ensure the safety of the conferees.

### Commentator Rebukes ICPD's Detractors

NC2808153994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "The Furthers Human Development"]

[Text] In a few days, the fifth ICPD [International Conference on Population and Development] conference will open in Cairo. It represents a scientific, developmental, international, and human endeavor to

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consider the related problems of people, earth, and development. Delegates of more than 190 countries and 20,000 experts interested in human development and population will attend the UN-sponsored conference.

The conference is a boost to Cairo's cultural, material, and intellectual prestige. The choice of Egypt from among many competitors as the venue for the conference is an expression of international recognition of Egypt's scientific, cultural, and historic prestige as well as its successful efforts to deal with the population problem.

Generally speaking, the conference is a forum for international debate of the best way to rein in the population explosion and explore the intricate relationship between population, development, and natural resources.

In other words, the conference aims to further human development. People are the ultimate beneficiaries and prime movers of development. This being the case, why do some people see nothing but a scorching wind and promise nothing but a hail of fire and brimstone every time they glance at the ICPD's preparatory draft? Why are some people consumed with a desire to misconstrue the ICPD's objectives and denounce them? Why do they invoke religious edicts and brandish the sword of tradition in order to override the freedoms of opinion and expression? Those rabble rousers forget, or seek to overlook, the fact that no power can impose on us something that our religion and principles reject.

Our hosting of the ICPD does not mean that we have to abide by the ideas it discusses or the opinions expressed by its committees. This much President Husni Mubarak has made clear. The president said that Egypt is playing host to the ICPD because it believes in openness and because it is not afraid of debate. Egypt, while faithful to its religious beliefs and principles, takes pride in international recognition of its knowledge and scientists. Egypt also hopes that the world will help it confront one of its worst problems.

There are great hopes that the conference will produce useful recommendations concerning population and development. We should use the best solutions that the conference comes up with in treating this serious problem that affects the lives of many. People are the ultimate concern of the development process. They are also the designers of that process.

#### 'Terrorist Theoreticians' Attacking ICPD

NC3008070794 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic  
25 Aug 94 p 4

["Weekend" column by Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid: "The Population Conference and the Terror Conspiracy"]

[Text] The military wing of terrorism in Egypt is in retreat; its criminal operations have almost vanished. Numerous factors have made this possible.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi brought to his post a security mentality different from those of his predecessors and succeeded in transforming the security forces' confrontation with the terrorists from a haphazard operation into a well-planned scientific campaign.

Additionally, favorable developments took place in the education and media spheres and plans were made to eliminate slums and develop new residential areas.

To besiege and destroy terror, Egyptian foreign policy makers cooperated with the governments of the countries where terrorist leaders and financiers had set up shop.

For the first time the terrorist military wing became exposed. Its organizational structures, maps, plans, statements, movements, leaders at home and abroad, and financial sources were laid open.

For the first time the Egyptian people and leaders acquired the political will to wage an all-out battle against terrorism. Society placed itself on the right track.

The results were spectacular. Foreign intelligence reports from Cairo, which formerly spoke of an imminent terrorist seizure of power, simply disappeared.

Major powers had been exerting pressures on the Egyptian Government to start a dialogue with the terrorists and reduce the security campaign against them. The pressures stopped.

The world's newspapers and radio stations, which had exaggerated the terrorist actions in Egypt and warned tourists of a probable civil war in Cairo's streets and some Egyptian Governorates, are now extolling security in Egypt and admitting that tourist traffic is almost back to normal.

There could be no greater proof of the world's acknowledgement of the change in Egypt than the United Nations' choice of Cairo, over several other major capitals, as venue for the planet's largest international conference in the 20th century, the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], due to begin on 5 September.

Terrorist leaders and financiers, including some countries, became frenzied. They decided not to surrender.

Because terror's military wings had been clipped, its intellectual wing was activated.

Terrorism has its intellectuals, ideologues, and writers who create publicity for it. Some do this openly; some from behind a veil; and some by adopting vague, irresolute positions.

Terrorism's intellectual wing began its operations by raising an uproar over every possible issue and turning any mundane affair into a religious controversy.

It provoked a religious dispute over whether women should wear the veil, school uniforms, and other things.

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The aim was to prevent society from achieving a total victory over terrorism and to continue holding Egypt hostage to terror.

This is why terrorist theoreticians opened fire on the ICPD. And when terrorist ideologues speak, they use any method that will ensure sensationalism and confusion, including lies and fabrications.

They portrayed the ICPD to the public as an anti-Islam conspiracy that is being imposed on Egypt by parties hostile to Islam.

On another occasion they portrayed it as an Egyptian conference. They said Egypt was its proponent and was responsible for its agenda and the documents it was going to issue.

Exploiting the fact that the documents of the conference have not been published—even if they had been published not many would read them—they alleged that these documents require Egypt to legalize abortion, homosexuality, and extramarital relations and to give equal inheritance rights to women.

All this is not true.

Regrettably, however, the uproar caused by the advocates and ideologues of terrorism forced the state into a defensive position, although there was no crime to begin with.

The venerable al-Azhar—with all due respect—began refuting the document of the conference, although it is still a draft that has not yet been presented to the conference, let alone approved, simply because the conference has not yet met.

The mufti of the Republic—he has my respect, too—also provided detailed views about the document.

They were behaving as if the conference was Egyptian or Islamic, as if the document was Egyptian or Islamic, as if it was going to be imposed on Egypt, or Egypt was going to impose its views on other people.

None of this is true.

What many people ignored is that this conference is the fifth international conference on population affairs in the second half of the 20th century.

Egypt attended the four earlier conferences, found some of the issues under discussion acceptable, expressed reservations on others, and rejected others. Each of those conferences issued documents, resolutions, or recommendations.

The Egyptian delegations that attended the earlier conferences, like the delegation that will participate in the new one, were patriotically and religiously responsible. They adopted appropriate positions without consulting the venerable al-Azhar or the honorable Mufti's Office.

This is what used to happen in former years: no uproar, no sensationalism. No one at home or abroad accused Egypt of departing from its Islamic path.

The new conference could have been organized in another country. No one would have spoken out.

It is not a religious issue, then. It is not an Islamic, Christian, or Jewish issue.

The issue is primarily political. The target is a short word: Egypt. Many hate to see it prosper.

Where is religion in all this? It is merely the veil behind which the proponents and ideologues of terrorism operate.

### **Islamist Lawyers File Lawsuit To Bar ICPD**

*NC2908193194 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 25-31 Aug 94 p 1*

[Report by Amirah al-Huwaydi]

[Text] Charging that the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was a Zionist-imperialist conspiracy against Muslims, a group of lawyers, mostly Islamists, have filed a law suit with the Administrative Court, seeking an order that would prevent the conference from taking place in Cairo.

At the opening of hearings on Tuesday [23 August], 'Abd-al-Halim Ramadan, a 70-year-old Islamist lawyer, declared: "It is my duty as a Muslim to prevent harm from befalling Islam. The harm lies in the corrupt ideas contained in the ICPD's draft Programme of Action. Not only do they run counter to the teachings of Islam but also to the teachings of Christianity and Judaism."

Ramadan sarcastically offered thanks to the United Nations "for solving the population problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina"—presumably by failing to protect Bosnian Muslims against Serbian attacks. "Now it will be Egypt's turn," Ramadan said.

Following in the footsteps of other Islamists, Ramadan objected to sections of the Programme which, he said, condoned abortion and sexual relations outside wedlock.

'Abd-al-Halim Manzur, another lawyer, said the U.S. realized, after dropping atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that weapons do not crush people. "An explosion has to be engineered from within," he said.

Manzur said the Egyptian government made a mistake by allowing the U.S. to "hatch this plot against the peoples of the Third World. It is ironical that an Egyptian, Butrus-Ghali, (the UN secretary-general), should have pushed this disaster upon Egypt".

At a news conference after hearings were postponed until Saturday, Manzur said the lawyers did not represent any particular trend and "were doing this for the people". He said they opposed the ICPD "because the conference is a Zionist-imperialist conspiracy to impose hegemony over

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the Islamic countries." Another reason, he said, is that many of the ideas contained in the Programme of Action were in violation of Islamic teachings. "Discussing those ideas would be a violation of the Constitution which states that Islamic shari'ah is the principal source of legislation," he said.

### Libya

#### Al-Qadhdhafi, Sudan's al-Bashir Discuss Ties

LD3008071494 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] this evening received Lieutenant-General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, leader of the national salvation revolution and president of the Republic of Sudan, and his accompanying delegation which includes a number of ministers. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, which was attended by the brother secretary of the general people's committee for unity [Jum'ah al-Mahdi al-Fazzani], brother secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation [Umar al-Muntasir], brother secretary of the general people's committee of communication and transport, and the ambassador of Sudan to the Great Jamahiriya, the main important pan-Arab and international issues of mutual interest were discussed. [passage omitted]

[Begin al-Bashir recording] On this happy occasion, the anniversary of the al-Fatih revolution, the unionist revolution, we appeal to the brothers in Egypt to normalize relations with Sudan. On our part we will take the initiative by halting the media campaign from the Sudan side with the hope that the brothers in Egypt will respond to this appeal to normalize our Arab relations. If some of us were seeking to normalize relations with Israel, it would be better to normalize our Arab relations so we will be able to check all the (?imperialist) schemes of colonial aims and to cast aside all Arab feuds. We hope the brothers in Egypt will respond to this appeal so that we can make other steps in the interest of the two peoples in Egypt and in Sudan. [end recording]

#### International Terrorism Symposium Held in Libya

LD2708154694 Tripoli JANA in English 1454 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli, August 27, Jamahiriya News Agency—A symposium entitled "International Terrorism" was held last night at al-Amal al-Akhdar Hall in Sirte with the participation of the delegation of the delegation of the Moroccan society for the promotion of culture and arts who are at present on a visit to the Great Jamahiriya.

The participants in the symposium, organized by the revolutionary action team in Sirte, discussed the issue of terrorism at the international level and its forms, objectives and components.

The serious debates which characterised the symposium showed the terrorist plans aimed at undermining the Arab nation.

#### North Korean Delegation Arrives in Tripoli

LD2908190194 Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli August 29 JANA—The Northern Korea delegation which will participate in the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution, has arrived today, headed by the Vice-President Pak Songchol. The delegation was received by the secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

The vice-president of Northern Korea is accompanied by a delegation including the deputy foreign minister and a number of senior officials in Northern Korea.

#### Stance on Lockerbie Receives International Approval

LD2808182494 Tripoli JANA in English 1759 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli, August 28, JANA—The civilized position taken by the Great Jamahiriya towards the so called Lockerbie issue is meeting a growing and unprecedented international approval and respect by the regional and international organisations and institutions which began to defend this stance for its harmony with international laws and customs.

Also, the Arab proposals, crystallised in the various decisions taken by the Arab League towards finding a peaceful settlement to the [words indistinct] so called Lockerbie crisis [words indistinct] began to find wider echoes amongst British officials who started to urge their government to accept the Arab proposals on the trial of the two suspects in a neutral venue.

The former Scottish Solicitor General Nicholas Fairburn commended the proposals and called upon the British Government, in a statement to the Scottish newspaper THE SCOTSMAN, to respond to the said proposals which contain a compromise acceptable to all sides.

Furthermore, the British radio quoted the British conservative member of parliament Sir Teddy Taylor as supporting the Arab proposals and stressing the need for the British Government to respond to the proposals which represent a flexible stance so that all facts are heard before a neutral and impartial court.

### Sudan

#### Government To Participate in Population Conference

EA2908193294 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 29 August (SUNA)—Minister of Social Planning Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has said

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that his ministry will show memorandums to all the international organizations and the United Nations Cairo population conference. Taha made the remarks while receiving Monday [29 August] representatives of the Islamic Da'wah Corp'n, women's union, Islamic Medical Society. The secretariat of the national congress and al-Ifta Islamic ruling council. [sentence as received] He called on all the popular and official institutions and organizations to organize a media campaign to enlighten the citizens on the objectives of the said conference, which contradict the Islamic orientation. The conference's aim is to check population increases in the Third World countries, notably the Islamic states, to exploit their resources, he said.

He affirmed that Sudan is one of the two African states that have a comprehensive population strategy, pointing out in this respect that a decision will be issued within the next weeks transforming the National Population Committee to a council that groups all the popular and official organizations.

Regarding the participation of Sudan in the conference, he indicated that Sudan intended to take part in the said conference to voice out its viewpoint and to coordinate stances with other states, adding that in the case of Sudan's withdrawal a statement will be issued to clarify its viewpoints.

#### Rejection of ICPD Noted

EA2908200594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Sudan has announced its unequivocal rejection of the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], scheduled for early September in Cairo. In a news conference held at the television studio this evening, Minister of Social Planning Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha stressed that Sudan had been monitoring and observing the special developments relating to this conference, whose recommendations and reports were issued before it was convened, and stated that the recommendations had evoked violent reactions and encountered strong opposition from some Muslim and Christian states.

He said convening the conference was an attempt to eliminate morality, stating that the organizing committee had adhered to its different documents calling for extending abortion, transgressing family limits, allowing free sexual relations, and allowing the use of contraceptives and other methods for destroying the family and society.

His excellency recalled that these recommendations were to a large extent expressive of U.S. President Bill Clinton's election program. This he said, indicated the presence of a secret hand in the conference to guarantee the stability of the Zionist entity, after destroying the phenomenon of population growth in the Arab and Muslim world. [passages omitted]

#### U.S. Envoy Meets With Officials, Departs

EA2908194094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Ambassador Melissa Wells, U.S. President Bill Clinton's envoy to Sudan, left this morning for Nairobi after a two-day visit to this country. During her visit here she met with a number of government officials who briefed her on Sudan's proposal on the creation of a new mechanism for talks with factions of the rebel movement within the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states to bring about peace in the country. The ambassador was also briefed on the government's wish to have the talks, scheduled for early next month, postponed until this mechanism is created and the fundamental issues proposed taken into consideration to attain the needed peace. There was also the need for work and serious preparations for the forthcoming talks and the participation of all sides in order to arrive at a good result.

The U.S. envoy was also briefed during the visit on the government's efforts to transport relief supplies, as well as Sudan's acceptance of the UN proposal to open safe corridors for the transportation of relief to the needy in the south.

SUNA reports that Wells will persevere with her mission in Nairobi to bring the viewpoints of the parties to the talks closer together, with a view to giving impetus to the peace process. The U.S. President's envoy had earlier stated that she had new ideas in this regard. She expressed the hope that the talks would be convened as soon as possible, so as to accelerate the establishment of peace in the country.

#### Alleged Support for 'Terrorists' Examined

NC2908165894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Article by Chief Editor Samir Rajab from MAYU; date not given: "The Cloak and Dagger Policy in Sudan: Where To?"—read by announcer]

[Text] Conditions in Sudan have deteriorated to an unprecedented level. The al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime has become exposed without even a flimsy cover. It looks around in all directions and finds no one to support it inside or out. Its terrorist practices, which once upon a time it naively believed were weapons to impose its authority and hegemony inside Africa, are of no use to it anymore. It has torn to pieces the unity of the Sudanese Army under the illusion that dividing it into small groups could protect the Islamic Front headed by Hasan al-Turabi. Now the Army is boiling on the inside, waiting for zero-hour to rid the country of this terrible nightmare that is burdening its people. There is a virtual international consensus now that the people in Sudan are shaking violently under the feet of this group, which came to power on 30 July 1989 under the leadership of Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of what is called the

Islamic Front. When al-Turabi assumed the throne of power in Sudan, he tried to cover himself with flimsy symbols that reveal more than they conceal. He bared his arms and produced his yellow cards. His sacred instructions to his henchmen were issued. The man's ambitions are greater than his abilities. Is he not the imam of the Muslims in the east and the west? In actual fact, he is a bankrupt imam. The armies of Hulegu do not gather under his throne to invade the world. His dinars are not worth the paper they are printed on. Therefore, this is a cloak-and-dagger policy. Before the man jumped to power, he had a number of experiences in terrorism.

In 1987, he colluded with Saddam Husayn's regime and lured an Iraqi opposition figure to Khartoum, Mahdi al-Hakim. In Khartoum, al-Hakim was killed by machine-gun bullets fired in one of the big hotels in Sudan. Al-Turabi received his reward in gold from Mesopotamia.

Al-Turabi followed a two-track policy. The first track was to terrorize his people. He positioned his henchmen, who in Sudan are known as the youth of the Front, on the necks of the people and their livelihoods. To date, the man has been successful in this. The second track consists of bringing terrorists and paid criminals rejected by their own people to reside in Sudan and enjoy the blessings of the imam and the facilities he grants them, such as residence permits, financing, training, and planning while they prepare to carry out his orders. Their hopes are that he will appoint them governors and princes over the various lands and states he will conquer.

Terrorists, like bats, flocked to al-Turabi. They came from every deep abyss; from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, from Pakistan and Afghanistan, and from Europe and America. Camps were set up in all corners of Sudan. One camp was for jihad training, another for doctrinal training. The guest houses were full of these residents. Public conferences were held in the name of the Arab and Islamic Peoples Conference. On the sidelines of this conference and in its shadow, al-Turabi was cultivating relations between various organizations. Large-scale schemes were presented for discussion.

Fingers were pointed at al-Turabi, accusing him of harboring criminals and terrorists. He, in turn, filled the whole world with clamor that these are unjust accusations leveled at him by the countries of global arrogance to thwart an experiment in civilization that he created. After being tempted by Carlos, he was caught with his pants down when Carlos was whisked away by France to stand trial in its courts. For al-Turabi's shrieks and media clamor not to get louder—there is a basis for what we say—we affirm to the Sudanese regime that the whole world will not show mercy for criminals and terrorists attracted to swimming in a current of blood. All indications, evidence, and proof are in the black files of the Sudanese regime throughout the world. The smell of corruption reeks from these files, and they teem with all

the treachery and deception that al-Turabi's regime has adopted as a policy and program.

We present today several pieces of evidence from al-Turabi's black file.

A secret message addressed to the passport office director at Khartoum Airport asking him not to stamp the passport of a Tunisian citizen named Muhammad al-Tahir Ibn-al-Bashir. The message was signed by the chief immigration officer at the airport and stamped by the Khartoum Airport Public Security Office on 21 October 1993. The message contained the observation that the passport number was 71523, dated 8 September 1992, issued in Tunis, and that this Tunisian national was travelling on a Bulgarian Airlines plane to Sofia.

This raises many questions, to which al-Turabi's regime might know the answers. The answers are not hard for the whole world to see. Why did this Tunisian citizen go to Sudan? What was his relationship with the Sudanese intelligence apparatus? Why all this interest in him? Why was his passport not stamped? All this is linked to a plot of this latest imam Hasan, al-Turabi, who wants to sit on the Muslims' throne even if this is built on skulls.

A message from Sudanese Ambassador in Kabul Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Sulayman. It was signed by him on 17 August 1993 and bore the embassy's stamp. The message, addressed to Khartoum International Airport's passport office, recommended that the passport of a Moroccan citizen named 'Abd-al-Latif al-'Alami not be stamped when he enters and leaves Sudan for reasons known to the ambassador.

The questions are still the same. But the signs here are more comprehensive. It is apparent that Sudan's embassies abroad are entrusted with the role of manpower contractor. They pick the terrorists and facilitate their travel to al-Turabi's Islamic state, where they receive better training in assassinating and terrorizing innocent people.

The repeated scenes facing the Sudanese brothers in their country's capital are the best and most convincing evidence. The so-called Arab Afghans gather there and move freely in Khartoum's streets. Al-Turabi believes that armed force is the only way to protect the Islamic Front he leads. But how could this be done when the Sudanese Army was a secular one, as he saw for himself, and a barrier between him and his wishes. Thus he decided to change this army and overturn its leadership. He set up what he called the group [al-jama'ah], a formation that is smaller than a platoon or a company. He then appointed a member of the Islamic Front to lead every group. His task was confined to reporting all that goes on in the armed forces' ranks to al-Turabi and his aides. These group leaders are the ones who convey the military orders to the officers and soldiers and track their implementation. Thus, junior officers are now in control of the army.

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To ensure that the Army will implement their plans, al-Bashir and al-Turabi granted Ibrahim Shams-al-Din full authority. He is the absolute master, al-Turabi's spokesman, and the keeper of his secrets. In order to ensure the Armed Forces' full loyalty, al-Turabi has dismissed more than half the officers, who numbered around 7,000 when the military coup took place in 1989. But the question remains: Will the Sudanese Army's officers accept this humiliation forever?

As to the civilian employees, they too have suffered greatly from al-Turabi's tyranny and despotism. More than half have been dismissed on the pretext that they are not loyal to the Islamic Front, and they have thus joined the ranks of the unemployed, the hungry, and the shelterless.

It is only natural for such a regime to make enemies with democracy of all kinds and freedom of all colors and varieties. Therefore, any citizen, whether civilian or military, who has the guts to speak out will undoubtedly be dumped in the labyrinths of the prisons and physically and mentally tortured beyond imagination and tolerance. Perhaps the clearest picture of this torture is provided by one of the Sudanese Armed Forces' sons in a letter he sent to Brigadier General Muhammad Ahmad al-Rih al-Fakki, Sudanese justice minister and public prosecutor. The prisoner was held at Sawakin Prison and his letter reveals the reality of what this terrorist group is now doing in Sudan.

Therefore, what do the overpowered Sudanese people demand from people who behave in this way and have such policies? The rulers have been diverted from performing their basic duties of providing a dignified life for the people. They are occupying themselves with murder, bloodshed, violating rights, and accusing innocent people. What has the result of all this been? Economic conditions have deteriorated terribly, to the extent that the price of a loaf of bread has reached 37 pounds; a kilogram of meat costs 1,000 pounds; a gallon of gasoline costs 700 pounds [currency not specified]. This might be acceptable were an individual's average income reasonable. However, we notice that the basic minimum wage in Sudan is 4,100 pounds, while they themselves have defined what is called the poverty line and set it at 12,000 pounds. In other words, the majority of the Sudanese people are living well below the poverty line. It is strange that these people, from al-Turabi's point of view, deserve zakat [alms money]. But where is the money for zakat supposed to come from when the majority of the people are wretched and poor. What enrages one is that, when a sum of money is collected from the zakat, it is pocketed by members of the Islamic Front. The Sudanese people ask their rulers: The price of the dollar when you came to power was 50 pounds. Now, the price of the dollar is 500 pounds, that is 10 times more. Where have all your promises gone with which you pierced our ears and through which you at that time affirmed that one of your major tasks would be to decrease the price of the dollar? Unfortunately, everything is now taking a turn backwards in Sudan.

If only things were restricted to food and water. They have expanded to include the health and life of man. Medicines have disappeared from the Sudanese market because the government can neither produce nor import them. It is a normal scene now to see people selling medicines on the streets outside hospitals in Sudan. But these are medicines the validity date of which has expired. The Sudanese people are all talking about the story of a man whose four sons fell ill with a contagious disease. He went to a doctor who prescribed medicines, none of which he could find on the regular market. He resorted to a pharmaceuticals dealer on the black market, who promised to find the medicines for him for a phenomenal sum. The man then said: I will cure two of my sons. As for the other two, they have God for comfort. And, in fact, two sons died. Truly, how can people buy medication when a course of antibiotics costs 1,000 Sudanese pounds? Doctors in Sudan have no alternative to mass exodus. They are unemployed, and their activities are now restricted to certifying birth or death certificates. But on the other hand, authorities prevent them from travelling—a measure that has forced many to apply for new passports with false professions recorded on them. A qualified doctor now records his profession on his passport as agricultural worker or something like that.

In the end, there is only one thing left to say. It is impossible for a regime like the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime to continue practicing all kinds of indiscriminate behavior, oppression, and injustice. We are confident that the hour of salvation is coming, without a doubt. O you fraternal people of Sudan, the night has to end and the sun will soon rise one morning, God willing; the prison warden, the prison, and the executioner will be thrown into the dustbin of history.

### Rebels Claim New Fighting With Government

AB2908190994 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT  
29 Aug 94

[By Luke Odhiambo]

[Text] Nairobi, Aug 29 (AFP)—A faction of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has claimed that Sudanese Government forces have launched new attacks on its forces in the Bhar el-Ghazal region of southern Sudan.

In a statement dated August 26 and only released here on Monday [29 August], Riak Machar's SPLA-United faction said government forces attacked its troops at Adok on the River Nile and at Kurel on the Bhar el-Ghazal river in southwest Bentiu.

The government's intention, it said, was to open up Bhar el-Ghazal River in order to enable it to supply and strengthen its forces in Bentiu garrison in preparation for the dry season offensive.

The statement charged that the "National Islamic Fundamentalist (NIF) government has been on the offensive

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ever since it declared its unilateral ceasefire on the eve of the third round of talks sponsored by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)".

The Sudanese Government declared a much-applauded unilateral ceasefire in its war with southern rebels on July 22 in answer to an appeal by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, saying the declaration was intended to ensure the success of ongoing one-week inter-Sudanese peace talks held in the Kenyan capital from July 19.

The talks, under the auspices of IGADD which groups Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, were adjourned on July 30 to September 5 with mediators appealing to Khartoum to be more flexible in the negotiations.

But in their Monday statement, the rebels charged that since the ceasefire declaration last month, government forces had attempted to open up Bhar el-Ghazal River, but had been repulsed in ensuing encounters and a large number of arms and ammunition had been captured.

The statement also charged that at the beginning of August, government militia had attacked and overrun Fangak and looted Samaritan Purse International agency compound and the civil population before they were repulsed by SPLA-United forces.

The rebel faction said it was "now abundantly clear that the Sudanese Government is not interested in a peaceful settlement of the conflict, but rather in gaining military advantages to enable it to dictate terms on the people of South Sudan when the fourth round of IGADD-sponsored talks open early in September".

SPLA-United appealed to the international community in general, and IGADD member states in particular, to apply pressure on the Khartoum government "to abandon its war mongering attitude and take the issue of peace more seriously".

The statement comes in the wake of the arrival in the Sudanese capital of American special envoy Melissa Wells for two days of talks with Sudanese Government officials on prospects of progress in the talks to settle the 11-year Sudanese civil war.

Wells was due to arrive here later on Monday for talks with officials of the two SPLA rebel factions involved in the talks—SPLA-United and the mainstream SPLA faction led by John Garang.

The SPLA took up arms in 1983 to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist south by the Arabised Moslem north.

Several years of efforts by the international community to bring to an end the bloody conflict, which has killed nearly a million people and forced millions of others either to be displaced inside the country or flee to neighbouring countries, have ended on the rocks.

## Tunisia

### Islamic Leader Criticizes French Government

LD2908145894 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Mission in the United Kingdom met in Sheffield, Great Britain, last weekend. On this occasion, many leaders criticized France's position, in particular the support given by France to the Algerian Government and the house arrest of presumed FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] supporters over the last few weeks.

Rached Ghannouchi, the leader of the banned Tunisian Islamic movement, Ennahdha, was among them. As you will hear, he has taken a stand against the French Government:

[Begin Ghannouchi recording, in Arabic with superimposed French translation] It is an incorrect position and it is detrimental to future relations between the Maghreb and France because it does not support democracy. On the contrary, it supports an isolated dictatorial regime.

During the Francophone conference, President Mitterrand pointed out that France would support democratization in Africa and link financial aid to progress within the framework of democratization. However, what we can see is quite the opposite.

Of course, I condemn this attitude and I believe that France must promote dialogue. It can play that role. [end recording]

### Interior Minister Briefs Envoys on Terrorism Threat

LD2608184494 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Within the framework of the regular conference of Tunisia's ambassadors abroad, which was opened yesterday by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui on behalf of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the participants heard an address by Abdallah Kallel, the minister of state and interior minister, which dealt with the Tunisian government's policy of consolidating security and stability at home and confronting terrorist elements abroad.

Abdallah Kallel stressed that the Tunisia of the new era enjoys a secure and safe atmosphere, stability, and self-assurance. He emphasized that that atmosphere did not come about by coincidence, but is the fruit of President Zine El Ben Ali's assiduous and persistent work and is a result of the correct choice of options and loyalty to the principles and tenets of the change [of 7 November 1987—overthrow of Bourguiba].

The minister of state also raised the issue of public security at home. He emphasized that the strengthening of methods of work in the spheres of organization, human and material resources, and operations makes it

possible to further consolidate the effectiveness of security intervention. He pointed out that thanks to the comprehensive development work and the significant gains achieved in different spheres, Tunisia has succeeded in foiling the attempts of the extremists who hide behind religion, closing the page on terrorism, and exterminating it inside the country, for terrorists hiding behind religion only exist abroad, as His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic, affirmed in the interview he recently gave to LE FIGARO. In this interview, he called for continued concentration at this stage on greater watchfulness for the terrorists' movements abroad, and for confronting their vile criminal and destructive attempts, which aim at infringing on the country's reputation and harming Tunisia's standing.

Abdallah Kallel praised the great efforts of Tunisian diplomacy abroad to publicize what has been achieved in Tunisia, the new era, of pioneering gains on the road of development, the establishment of plurality and democracy, and the consecration of human rights and public freedoms, and also to make known the constant danger represented by the sedition and terrorism networks that hide in those countries on their security and stability. In this context, the interior minister expressed his satisfaction with the noticeable change in the principled stances of some countries toward terrorism which hides behind religion, and in their handling of the remnants of sedition that exist on their territory. This is indicative of the international community's realization of the constant danger represented by those groups to security and democracy.

### Western Sahara

#### Problems in Referendum Voter Identification

LD2908183294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic  
1200 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The operation of identification of voters who have the right to vote in the referendum on the future of the Western Sahara has entered its second day. The operation which is undertaken by the UN mission for organising the referendum in the Western Sahara is

taking place in the occupied Saharan territory and, in parallel, in the Saharan refugee camps in Tindouf. A Saharan delegation is attending the identification of the Saharan voters as observer of the operation in the occupied part of the Saharan territory, and a Moroccan delegation is also attending as observer of the operation in the refugee camps in Tindouf. Four OAU officials, two in occupied Laayoune and two others in the refugee camps, are also accompanying the UN delegation organising the referendum.

In view of the total secrecy surrounding the operation, the national radio has made telephone contact with the Saharan ambassador in Algiers [Mohamed Lini] to find out about the proceedings.

[Begin Lini recording] We have noted that on the first day in the capital of the occupied Western Sahara, Laayoune, the international press was not able to cover the event, and we have also noted that citizens were not informed about the operation. We have also noted that those of them who have presented themselves to the identification committee had had all their personal documents confiscated by the Moroccan authorities; the documents dated back to the Spanish era, and were thus proof of their identities. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia, El Hamra, and Rio de Oro [P. L. L.] is postponing its hypothetical reservations until after it has seen how the operation goes in the field. Let us listen to the ambassador:

[Begin Lini recording] Saharan reservations are clear in theory, but in the field, reservations would come through a judgement on the fairness of the proceedings of the identification operation. If it becomes clear that there is forgery, or a drive to swamp the identification committee with bogus voters or false Saharans, then obviously the operation would fail, because the aim of the plan is a referendum for the self-determination of the Saharan people, nothing else. So far the Moroccan side has wanted to swamp the ballot boxes with another people, other than the Saharan people, and therefore the operation would be doomed to failure if the referendum is not fair. [end recording]

## Kuwait

### Council Calls For Continued Sanctions Against Iraq

LD2908155694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1402 GMT  
29 Aug 94

[Text] Kuwait, 29 August—At its meeting today the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers stressed the need for maintaining the international sanctions against the Iraqi regime until it heeds all international resolutions in connection with its aggression against the State of Kuwait. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting minister of planning and finance, said this in a statement following the meeting which was headed by the Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, foreign minister and acting prime minister.

Al-Dakhil said the council stressed the need to maintain the international sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime until there was evidence of its full commitment to implementing all the resolutions of the Security Council related to its aggression against the state of Kuwait. He pointed out that the council had followed with great interest the moves of the Iraqi regime and its attempts to sidestep the international resolutions before the meeting of the UN Security Council due to be held the middle of next month to review the sanctions imposed upon this regime. He underlined that these resolutions are a legal and political unit that cannot be divided, especially Resolution 833 concerning the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, which stresses the guarantee of the inviolable nature of the borders of the two sides and the need for releasing all the Kuwaiti and other prisoners. He further said that the Council of Ministers had reiterated its faith in the pioneering role played by the UN Security Council in maintaining international peace and security.

## Saudi Arabia

UN Cited on Saudi Decision Not To Attend ICPD  
NC2908122794 Paris AFP in English 2155 GMT  
28 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 28 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia will not attend the UN [International] conference on population and development [ICPD], which is due to be held here early next month amid a hot controversy in the Muslim world, the organisers said Sunday.

"The Saudis officially announced today that they are not coming," UN spokeswoman Van Kanpen told AFP. She said she did not know the reasons.

A Saudi embassy official in Cairo said he was unaware of any such decision.

An Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman also said Egypt had not been advised, but pointed out that the UN were usually informed first.

Egyptian Muslim fundamentalists have condemned the eight-day meeting due to start on September 5 as "the devil's conference", saying its purpose is to exterminate Muslims by advocating abortion and birth control.

The armed underground movement al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, which claimed responsibility for killing a young Spanish tourist Friday in an attack on a tourist bus, issued death threats against any foreigners who attended the meeting.

Saudi Arabia, one of the strictest countries in implementing Islamic law, is the first state to announce it will not be attending the conference.

### Ministry Announces Execution of Pakistani

LD2608202494 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television  
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Statement by Interior Ministry]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Ismail 'Abd-al-Rahman Jamal Khan, a Pakistani national, kidnapped an under-aged boy from a public street, forced him into a car, and took him to an isolated place where he committed an immoral sexual act with him.

By the grace of God, the competent authorities were able to arrest him, and an investigation led to his indictment. He was referred to court and convicted of the crime with which he was charged. He was sentenced to death by beheading as his punishment and as a deterrent to others. [passage omitted]

Ismail 'Abd-al-Rahman Jamal Khan was executed today, 26 August 1994, in the holy City of Mecca, Mecca region. [passage omitted]

## United Arab Emirates

Paper Says U.S. Must Pressure Israel, Not Arabs  
JN2908204794 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic  
27 Aug 94 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] We do not wish to doubt the sincerity of the U.S. intentions toward the Middle East peace process or the U.S. Administration's desire to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the region. Evidently, any progress on any of the tracks of negotiations is considered a success for U.S. President Bill Clinton, which he can employ when he runs for a second term in office.

However, we cannot understand the U.S. President's insistence on an immediate end to the Arab boycott of Israel while Israel continues to occupy most parts of the West Bank, Jordanian territory, a part of southern Lebanon, and the entire Syrian Golan Heights.

The boycott has been a weapon in the hands of the Arabs since the establishment of Israel. Latest statistics show that Israel lost more than \$50 billion as a result of the Arab boycott.

On the other hand, Israel still refuses to announce a readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights in observance of the "land for peace" formula on whose basis the Madrid Conference was convened. Furthermore, the Palestinian people have gained only part of their legitimate rights and occupied territory. So how can the Arab boycott be ended, and immediately?

U.S. pressure must be directed against Israel, not the Arabs. We on our part have proved that we support the just and comprehensive peace and trading peace for land. The Israelis must prove the same now so that the Arab boycott can be ended.

### Yemen

#### Foreign Minister on New Government, Foreign Policy

NC2808073594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah, in Sanaa, by Muhammad al-Aswad, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Aswad] Mr. Minister, we would first like to welcome you on the airwaves of the Voice of the Arabs.

[Basindwah] Thank you for your initiative to hold this telephone conversation with me.

[Al-Aswad] Mr. Basindwah, Yemen is now going through an important stage. There are consultations between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] over constitutional amendments, and there are also preparations for the formation of a new Yemeni government. How far have you gone as far as amendments to the Constitution are concerned?

[Basindwah] As you know, I am not partisan. I am a member of neither the GPC nor the YRG. But in my capacity as foreign minister, I know a great deal. What I can say is that there is full agreement regarding all the constitutional amendments that should be passed. The amendments will be passed, and then the government will be formed. It has not yet been decided whether participation in the new government will be confined to the GPC, the YRG, and the independents or whether the government will include representatives of other parties. Anyway, I can tell you that things are going normally and that Yemen has restored its security and stability and strengthened its unity after suppressing the mutiny and crushing the hateful secessionist plan. Anyone can tour Yemen and see that things are completely calm and stable and that there is no reason for worry or fear.

[Al-Aswad] How will the parties and political forces in the country be represented in the new government?

[Basindwah] You know that we are a multi-party democracy. Usually, the party of the majority rules the country. But the party of the majority in Yemen, the GPC, which is led by Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, does not want the government to include only its own representatives. There is, therefore, an inclination to broaden the base of participation in the government. This reflects a good spirit and a deep understanding of democracy, especially while in its first stages.

[Al-Aswad] Do we understand that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] will be represented in the new government, God willing?

[Basindwah] This has not yet been decided. The YSP is now in a state of imbalance; it is trying to unify its divided ranks. Any success in this regard will certainly be at the expense of the leadership, which adopted secession and caused the war.

[Al-Aswad] But the YSP will remain [word indistinct], at least in the ranks of the opposition.

[Basindwah] The YSP, under a new leadership, will remain on the stage, God willing. It might be active in the government or in the opposition.

[Al-Aswad] Yemen is certainly engaged in a reconstruction process. Are you facing difficulties? As foreign minister, do you have plans to ask for foreign assistance?

[Basindwah] We would like to thank the many countries that, on their own initiative, extended assistance to us to rebuild what the war destroyed. We are also counting heavily on our own national resources. With time we will be able, God willing, to reconstruct what the secessionists damaged through war. We welcome any assistance from any brother or friend. The Foreign Ministry, of course, is making efforts in this regard. We have had some success, but we wish for more, God willing.

[Al-Aswad] Mr. Basindwah, what shape will Yemen's Arab policy take in the next stage?

[Basindwah] On the Arab level, we turn special attention to our relations with our neighbors, especially with the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with a view to mending, first, what the Gulf crisis spoiled, and, second, what the internal Yemeni crisis spoiled. We hope we will get a response from all brothers in the states of the region. We also hope to strengthen our ties with Egypt, Syria, and all fraternal countries in the Arab east and west. We believe that we have to work to strengthen our relations with our brothers because they are the closest to us. After that, we give importance to our relations with all friends, and we are concentrating on our relations with Western countries in particular because they adopted rather good positions during the Yemeni crisis—something that we appreciate. The bonds of fraternity with our brothers are stronger than the differences with them.

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[Al-Aswad] What about the priorities of Yemeni foreign policy?

[Basindwah] Of course, we want to deal with everyone on the basis of noninterference in internal affairs and mutual respect. Yemen's unity should also be acknowledged as an established fact that cannot be denied or disputed. We hope that all the brothers who made wrong calculations will review their positions, and they will find that we have all love and amity for them.

[Al-Aswad] Thank you, Mr. Minister.

[Basindwah] You are welcome.

**Amendment of Constitution, Shura Council  
Expected**

JN2908185694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Aug 94  
pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji from London]

[Excerpt] In light of the expected amendment of the Constitution by the House of Representatives within the next few days and before the formation of a new government, informed Yemeni sources have said a shura council will be established and that preparations were under way to issue a law to this effect by the House of Representatives. The council will include 50 members made up of ulema, former ministers, and experts representing all governorates. Under the law, the members of the council will be appointed.

The council will play a consultative role parallel to that of the House of Representatives, and it is expected to be chaired by Presidential Council member Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani, who will quit his post at the House of Representatives after the approval of the constitutional amendments, including the replacement of the current five-man Presidential Council by the president and the vice president only.

Sources close to the Yemeni Reform Grouping said that the proposed amendment is supported by the grouping and that Shaykh al-Zandani, a Yemeni ulema and a leader in the grouping, believes that the proposed form of presidency represents the authority of one ruler, which is closer to the form of Islamic rule, instead of the five-man presidency which was described as imported from the socialist systems.

While the two principal parties, the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, have almost agreed on the constitutional amendments, which affect more than a quarter of the Constitution, as well as on another important issue, that is, adopting Islamic law as the only source of legislation and local government, what is important is how to guarantee three-quarters of the members of the House of Representatives needed to make such an amendment. The two principal parties do not enjoy this majority because they have 205 deputies, while 226 deputies are needed for that purpose. Therefore, contacts are under way with small parties like the Ba'th Party, which has seven deputies. However, the socialist members, who are facing a difficult situation, are expected to back the move. [passage omitted]

**Turkish Business Delegation Confers With Leaders****Meets Vice President Ramadan***TA2908163294 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 29 Aug 94**[Report by Metin Gokce in Baghdad]*

[Text] Yalim Erez, chairman of the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, who is in Baghdad as the guest of the Iraqi Government, is continuing to hold contacts.

This morning, Erez was received by Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan who said that the visit by the Turkish businessmen will be very useful in that they will familiarize themselves with the realities in Iraq. He pointed out that Turkey and Iraq do not covet each other, therefore the cooperation they will conduct will be to the benefit of the two peoples. He stressed that the talks concern only the two countries and do not harm the interests of others. He said that it is the most natural right of two neighboring countries to hold talks.

Ramadan invited Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to Iraq and added that he is ready to confer with the Turkish Government in Ankara.

Ramadan pointed out that the relations between Turkey and Iraq have certain unique characteristics, adding that harming these relations for whatever reason harms the economies and security of the two countries. He added that this visit is a first and expressed the hope that there will be more.

Yalim Erez said that the development of the relations between the two countries is important for the stability of the region. He pointed out that the embargo on Iraq greatly affected economic relations. In fact, he said, Turkey is like the second country after Iraq suffering from an embargo.

Erez pointed out that the Turkish business world was opposed to this embargo from the beginning. He described the embargo as a humanitarian crime committed against the Iraqi people. He added that only the Iraqi people and Turkey suffered from this embargo.

**Seeks 'Strategic' Contracts***JN2908141794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—Visiting Turkish businessmen say they want to conclude strategic industrial, agricultural, and commercial contracts with Iraq.

Dalim Araz [name as transliterated], chairman of the Turkish Chamber of Commerce and Industry Federation, who is leading the delegation, says he is confident the visit will open up wide vistas for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation. The Iraqi people are having to

endure a severe hardship resulting from the continuing sanctions, he told Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan in Baghdad today.

Mr. Araz conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and declared Turkey's interest in full-blown cooperation with Iraq.

Mr. Ramadan asked him to convey his greetings to the Turkish prime minister. He told him the Iraqi people and government take pride in the bonds the Muslim peoples of Iraq and Turkey have in common. Iraq was anxious to see these ties cemented, Ramadan emphasized.

The vice president said America and its Western allies harbor hostile ambitions in the region. By keeping the sanctions on Iraq in place, the United States is also hurting other regional powers, in particular Turkey, Ramadan stated.

**Confers With Oil Minister***JN2908175794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—Minister of Oil Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad today met with a visiting Turkish delegation of businessmen made up of representatives of major industrial and commercial firms, led by Yalim Erez.

The sides considered ways to boost cooperation in oil and trade and looked into the possibility of Turkish businessmen entering into joint ventures with Iraq. Mr. Erez said the Turkish people will continue to put pressure on their government to press for lifting the sanctions to ease the hardship it is causing.

**Confers With Trade Minister***JN2908183394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih this evening conferred with a visiting delegation of Turkish businessmen led by Yalim Erez, chairman of Turkey's Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation. The sides explored avenues to rejuvenate bilateral trade.

The minister outlined the adverse effects of the unjust sanctions on Iraq and their negative implications for ordinary Iraqis. He stressed the need for all people of goodwill to work toward lifting the sanctions.

Mr. Erez said Turkish businessmen were willing to cooperate with Iraq's socialist and mixed sectors in the best interests of the two countries.

**Foreign Minister Returns From Asian Tour***JN2908194694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has returned to Baghdad

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from a week-long Asian tour that took him to Pakistan, Thailand, and the PRC. [passage omitted]

#### **U.S. Said To Use ICPD To Harm Third World**

JN2808100594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT  
28 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—BABIL has said the United States is now seeking to annihilate millions of people in the Third World and is using the [International] Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which will convene in Cairo early September, to achieve that goal.

The paper says today that the conference will be employed to annihilate citizens of the Third World by fanning wars and crises, causing famines, spreading fatal epidemics, disintegrating the family system, and encouraging the collapse of the social values that bond nations and peoples together.

The paper notes that the United States insists on convening this conference to ratify a world program for population which forces all peoples to curtail population growth, delay and discourage marriage, and allow sexual relationships and homosexuality.

The paper says the United States is using the pretext of the threats posed by population growth against life on Planet Earth as an excuse to stop population growth by force, war, and planning. It also insists on not resolving the bloody crises and helps to flare wars.

#### **Opposition Claims Responsibility for Baghdad Bomb**

JN2908165494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Aug 94  
p 5

[Text] An Islamic opposition organization has claimed responsibility for the car bomb explosion in Baghdad last Monday [22 August] which killed one child and wounded 13 civilians.

A statement by the hitherto unknown Muslim Iraqi Vanguard for National Salvation Organization [munazamat al-tala'i al-islamiyah lil inqadh al-watani] distributed in Beirut yesterday said the following: To avenge the blood of Iraqi martyrs and to seek salvation from the regime of injustice and repression and as a sign heralding the initiation by the organization of its new jihad course, the Basim 'Abd-Husayn martyr group belonging to the Muslim Iraqi Vanguard for National Salvation Organization blew up the al-Hurriyah complex in Baghdad.

The statement says the Iraqi regime tried to defame the operation by claiming that the explosion harmed nearby houses.

Iraq last Tuesday accused U.S. agents of detonating the car bomb. AL-HAYAH received a statement dated 22

August announcing that Raji al-Tikriti group is responsible for the explosion in revenge for the execution of several free Iraqi army officers.

#### **Damascus Reports Execution of Dissident Ba'thists**

JN2808114894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] The [dissident] Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party today announced the death of comrade Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ta'i, alias Abu-Yusuf, and a number of other leading Ba'thist comrades who were executed without trial by the ruling regime in Baghdad. These comrades are: Muhammad 'Abd al-Ta'i, Muhammad Ayyub al-Dulaymi, Walid al-'Ubaydi, Hamid 'Abd al-Ta'i, Muhammad Qasim Hammudi, and Zuhayr Husayn.

The Iraq Command stressed that the ruling regime in Baghdad is adding yet another crime to its series of ugly crimes against the Iraqi people and the Arab nation. The Command notes that the martyrs' bodies were delivered to their families badly mutilated, thus reflecting the rancorous nature of the murderers.

#### **Sources Say 50-300 Dead in Halabjah Fighting**

NC3008100094 Paris AFP in English 2235 GMT  
29 Aug 94

[Text] Halabjah, Iraq, Aug 29 (AFP)—Bitter fighting between rival Kurdish factions has left scores of dead at Halabjah in Iraqi Kurdistan, Kurdish sources said Monday [29 August]. Figures varied from 50 to 300 dead.

The fighting is mainly between members of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of Jalal Talabani and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Mas'ud Barzani.

The latest round erupted the day after a joint appeal by Talabani and Barzani on August 25 for a ceasefire in the fighting which by then had left 350 dead since the beginning of August.

The PUK said 50 of its fighters had been killed at Halabjah but townsfolk said up to 300 people had died, including many civilians. Halabjah has been totally without electricity since Friday. Eight more people are reported to have been killed in similar faction fighting at Qala't Dizah further north.

The PUK and the KDP are fighting for control of Iraqi Kurdistan, which has been under United Nations protection and virtually cut off from the rest of Iraq since a Kurdish uprising against President Saddam Husayn after the Gulf War in 1991.

#### **Talabani, Barzani Attend Parliament Session**

NC2608191994 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The Kurdistan Parliament held an emergency meeting at 1700 yesterday. Jalal Talabani, Patriotic

Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general; Mas'ud Barzani, Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leader; Kawthar Rasul 'Ali, prime minister of the Kurdistan region; ministers; and members of [words indistinct] committee attended the meeting. This was the second such meeting in the past 10 days.

During the meeting, the Parliament members expressed their views frankly on the shortcomings, breaches, and violations of agreements. They posed several questions to brother Talabani and Barzani on these issues.

Afterwards, the Council of Ministers submitted a report on its stance to Talabani and Barzani and called on them to hold a meeting on Sunday [28 August] to declare their stance on the position adopted by the Kurdistan government.

During the meeting, Talabani and Barzani sent a joint cable to all peshmerga forces in Kurdistan declaring the need for an immediate cease-fire on all axes effective 2000 on 25 August. Any violator of this order will be severely punished by both parties.

A proposal was presented at the meeting to form a higher committee to normalize the situation in Kurdistan including Jalal Talabani, Mas'ud Barzani, and representatives of the Parliament and of the government. The committee will have its headquarters at the Parliament building. It was also decided that the Parliament will hold another meeting in the morning on 26 August. [words indistinct] Talabani and Barzani will (?attend) the session on the same day, which will also be attended by the PUK and KDP political bureaus' members and by the normalization committee members.

Talabani and Barzani made speeches at the Parliament meeting and responded to questions posed to them. Brother Talabani [words indistinct] to the important issues [words indistinct] on the need to normalize the situation in Kurdistan. He stressed banning [words indistinct] and the need for the Parliament to take a stance. [passage indistinct] Concluding his speech, Talabani thanked the Parliament members [words indistinct] to normalize the situation in Kurdistan.

Barzani [words indistinct] readiness to accept the Parliament proposals.

Responding to a question by [words indistinct] the Islamic Movement, Barzani stressed that all parties must abide by the parliament resolutions passed on 25 July [words indistinct] August. The Islamic Movement must comply with these resolutions. [words indistinct] It will alone bear the responsibility. He said: We give the Islamic Movement time to [words indistinct] in the process of peace and democracy in Kurdistan. [words indistinct] It will alone shoulder the responsibility and bear the consequences.

### Discuss Normalization Issue

*JN2908204594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] A meeting was held at the Prime Ministry at 1030 on 28 August to definitively normalize the situation in Kurdistan. Mas'ud Barzani, Jalal Talabani, Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Jawhar Namiq Salim, and Prime Minister Kawthar Rasul 'Ali attended the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by a Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] delegation and a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] delegation, and most of the ministers. At the onset of the meeting Prime Minister Kawthar Rasul 'Ali welcomed Mas'ud Barzani, Jalal Talabani, and the guests.

After this, the parliament speaker delivered a speech emphasizing the following two points: First, supporting the memorandum the council of ministers submitted to Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani on 25 August, and emphasizing the importance of implementing the decisions and the statement issued on 25 and 15 August that reflect the parliament's stand. Second, the need to give special attention to the Kurdistan parliament and government and the need for all the parties, particularly the KDP and the PUK, to support them.

In a speech he delivered, Mas'ud Barzani said he is happy and satisfied with the positive role the Kurdistan parliament and government assume to normalize the situation. He reaffirmed that all the sides have to take serious and appropriate steps to normalize the situation and restore stability and security to Kurdistan.

In a reply speech, Jalal Talabani said he fully supports what brother Mas'ud Barzani had stated on ending the tense situation, restoring the situation to normal, and having security and stability prevail.

At the end of the discussions between those attending, several points to normalize the situation were adopted.

It was decided that Jawhar Namiq Salim and Kawthar Rasul 'Ali will participate in the normalization committee as members.

### Kurdistan Autonomous Region Council Convenes

*JN2908142194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—The Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Executive Council has convened a session attended by the council's president, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, to examine general conditions in the region in light of excesses committed by bands of treason and agency. The council looked into ways to ease the hardship experienced by displaced persons forced to flee the Autonomous Region's governorates.

### Writer Urges Rejection of 'Submission'

*JN2908145394 Baghdad AL-IRAQ in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 8*

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin: "Submission Will Not Lift the Blockade"]

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[Text] The blockade from which our people are suffering was the first and will be the last chapter of aggression.

A glance at the states that imposed this blockade and which are insisting on maintaining it is sufficient proof that we are in the trench opposed to colonialism and Zionism. I will not explain here the factors of the struggle, that is, its causes and results. Let us also leave aside the Arab nation's interests as a whole. These are explained within the ideological framework that produced Iraq's political positions on pan-Arab issues, especially the primary Arab cause of Palestine. Let us concern ourselves with Iraq's domestic approach, which cannot be separated from the pan-Arab and humanitarian dimension except for the sake of discussion.

We must recall that the Algiers agreement opened for the first time wide vistas for developed relations between Iraq and Iran based on good neighborliness and the two countries' legitimate interests and their noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The moment the agreement was signed, intensive work against the Shah of Iran began, despite his mode of thinking and his eagerness to maintain developed relations with the West. Colonialism then pulled Khomeyni out of its sleeve, which is full of various models, to be a basic factor in restoring Iran to its former role as an important element in engaging Iraq, preventing it from progressing, and stopping its breathtaking developments in the seventies.

Iran has again become a bridge, or a conduit, for interference by others in Iraq's internal affairs and for exhausting its wealth and human effort. While the shah, using the Kurdish issue, played on the ethnic factor, Khomeyni played on a full range of ethnic, sectarian, tribal, and pseudo-revolutionary factors, as well as the class struggle factor, which he called defending the oppressed. Suddenly, the shah, armed to the teeth and surrounded by impregnable walls set up by his intelligence services, appeared helpless before the demonstrations of students and some elements from the bazaar. With astonishing speed, the shah's regime collapsed, without any serious attempt at survival.

The first action of the new Iranian rulers was to wage a political and propaganda war against Iraq and then to prepare for armed conflict. It was evident that the religious institution was not concerned with Iran's problems as much as it was concerned with exhausting Iraq, stopping its accelerating growth, and antagonizing its revolutionary leadership in order to pave the way for partitioning Iraq along sectarian or ethnic lines, and to weaken it to the point of making it a satellite of foreign powers. They wanted Iraq to be underdeveloped in all fields and miserably poor and hungry.

To the surprise of the colonialists, Zionists, and the Iranian rulers—but not to the surprise of the Iraqis and their leaders—Iraq fought back for eight years, emerged victorious, and liberated its territory. While Iran began to admit defeat, it stood puzzled before both new and old problems as a result of the war that it had triggered.

The colonialists and the Zionists did not waste time, but began to implement economic, political, and military plots, especially after Iraq emerged from the war stronger, more experienced, and highly organized.

Now, what has Iraq done to face all that?

I said let us not discuss major pan-Arab issues. Let us confine our interest to the domestic scene. The first thing that comes to mind in this regard is the new Iraqi individual, who is as ancient as the history of humanity and one of the major contributors to human culture. The Iraqi individual has been replenished and rejuvenated by the Saddam Husayn leadership.

Secondly, Iraq has been united as never before under an efficient leadership.

Thirdly, security and tranquility prevailed throughout Iraq, and the Iraqi people became well fed, able to fill their stomachs and secure food for today and tomorrow. The enemies did not want Iraqis to feel secure and full—two factors that lead to great historic action.

The point is that the enemies wanted us to starve and to return to the age of misery. Therefore, the prices of commodities will not fall through submission to the United States and Zionism. They waged the aggression with all its chapters in order to intimidate us and make us hungry. To those who offer us sugar-coated poison, proposing that relations with the United States be corrected and that we walk in the path of the [Middle East] settlement, we say that had this approach been feasible, it would have benefited Egypt. Al-Sadat met all their requirements with matchless enthusiasm. The net result was that Egypt became even poorer. To those who offer us sugar-coated poison, we say the Iraqi leadership cannot be blamed for the blockade because it is not of its making. On the contrary, this leadership left no avenue unexplored and no stone unturned in its attempts to lift this blockade, with the exception of one path, namely, selling Iraq's sovereignty, mortgaging its wealth, and tarnishing the dignity of its people, something it will never do.

The prosperity of Iraqis under their revolution was one of the major motives for the aggression. So, could it be true that our enemies will give us the chance to prosper if we say this or declare that? The answer is no.

For those who ask about the right path, we say it is patience with hunger, poverty, and injuries, and to act in conformity with the spirit of the unified Iraqi family in which no one will deprive his brothers of their rights or make an illegal profit at their expense.

Prosperity never comes through capitulation to aggression. Conversely, it is achieved by means of steadfastness, unrelenting work, sharing food between brothers in faith, homeland, descent, past, present, and destiny. Let us express our humanity not through clothes and soft talk but through a unified mentality and spirit. Let us join hands in our march forward.

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**Egypt's Musa Arrives on 2-Day Visit**

TA3008102294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Israel less than an hour ago on an official two-day visit. It is still not known whether he will visit the Yad Vashem Museum. In response to a question by our correspondent Arye Gus on that issue, Musa said the visit will be conducted according to the original plan coordinated between the Foreign Ministries of both countries. Time is short, and there is much work to be done, and there will be plenty of other opportunities for tours and visits, the Egyptian foreign minister said.

Foreign Minister Peres and the guest said they would discuss bilateral issues and progress in the peace process.

**Refusal To Visit Yad Vashem Criticized**

TA2908191294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] The government and the opposition are unanimous in their severe criticism of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's refusal to visit Yad Vashem. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] [passage omitted] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who has been in Israel on several occasions in the past, is coming to Israel tomorrow on a first official visit. His agenda includes the appropriate protocol: meetings with the president, the head of the opposition, industrialists, and Arab Knesset members. Musa asked that the Yad Vashem visit be removed from his agenda.

[Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein] I believe this refusal upsets and angers the Israeli public. I believe it is a grave mistake on the part of the Egyptian foreign minister. He probably does not know us and does not fully understand the meaning of Yad Vashem and the holocaust for us.

[Rosen] Foreign Ministry officials today again tried to convince the Egyptians to change the decision, attempting to find out the reason the visit was canceled. No substantive reason was given. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry is very angry, but there is no intention to call off Musa's visit. The opposition has different ideas:

[Likud Knesset Member David Levi] I canceled my participation in the festive dinner given in the honor of the Egyptian minister. This is my protest. It is the least I could do to express my resentment of the Egyptian minister's refusal to visit Yad Vashem.

[Likud Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau] The Egyptian foreign minister's refusal to visit Yad Vashem is unprecedented, as the Foreign Ministry says. If he insists for political reasons, we must also insist on our honor.

[Rosen] Insist? Not according to Rabin.

[Begin Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recording answering a question on the issue while touring the Weizmann Institute] Oh, leave me alone. He is coming. [end recording]

[Later, in the same newscast anchor Ya'akov Eylon interviews Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today in his office. In a recorded passage, Peres says: "I think he should visit Yad Vashem. We suggested that he do so. I spoke with him on the phone today and asked him why he would not visit Yad Vashem. He said that we will discuss it when we meet tomorrow. This is the first formal and official visit in Israel and Jerusalem by an Egyptian foreign minister. This is probably not simple for the Egyptians. They are very careful with the Arab world reaction to every step they make. At the same time, we invited him to visit Yad Vashem and I hope he will."]

**Further on Border Rebuff of Pakistani Envoy****Ministry 'Veterans' Question Policy**

TA2908144094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, some senior officials felt Prime Minister Rabin had taken an unnecessarily tough line with the Pakistani ambassador. However, in their public statements, foreign ministry officials are backing the prime minister. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] Prime Minister Rabin's denial of entry to the Pakistani ambassador reflects an attitude that is widespread among Israeli politicians. Israel has always been prepared to establish diplomatic relations with Pakistan. Pakistan has always refused and still refuses. Now, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wishes to visit the Gaza Strip, making it clear to Parliament in Islamabad that she will not even be in contact with the Israeli Government about the visit, quite apart from the letter of the Cairo Agreement. Such behavior on Pakistan's part is seen in the Prime Minister's Office as a deliberate snub. The feeling is that if Pakistan wants to send representatives to the Palestinian autonomy, it can at least have the courtesy to coordinate with Israel. This is also Israel's understanding of the Cairo Agreement.

But in the Foreign Ministry, veteran diplomats say it is not always wise to take umbrage. In their view, a visit by Benazir Bhutto is good for the Palestinian autonomy and the peace process because it will signal support from a very important Islamic country, and it could also be good for Israel, which is interested in relations with Pakistan, and should—in the view of the diplomats—seize any opportunity to break the ice. In the view of the diplomats, it would have been no great loss to Israel to allow the ambassador to enter the Gaza Strip and would have saved Yasir 'Arafat unnecessary embarrassment.

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Instead the veto exposed 'Arafat to yet more criticism from the Palestinian Islamic fundamentalists. [end recording]

#### **Pakistani Envoy on Incident**

TA2908141494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The Pakistani ambassador in Cairo, (Mansur Alem), has said his prime minister Benazir Bhutto may not come to Gaza following the incident at the Rafah border last night.

In an interview with reporter Gid'on Remez, (Alem) clarified that it was in fact the Pakistani ambassador to Tunisia who was turned back by Israeli border authorities. (Alem) said the arrangements for the visit had been made through the PLO which, he had understood, was to have taken the appropriate steps with the Israelis.

[Begin recording] [Alem] We understand the arrangements that exist between the PLO and the Israeli authorities. As far as we are concerned, we are going there to meet President 'Arafat. Our prime minister was going to visit President 'Arafat.

[Remez] As far as you know, the plans for this visit are still on? She's going ahead with it?

[Alem] Well, no, it depends now you see, because if the treatment meted out to our ambassador at the border was not very pleasant so certainly we do not want the prime minister to face any unpleasant situation at the border.

[Remez] Perhaps then some more direct prior coordination with the Israelis is called for?

[Alem] No, I mean you know of course that at this point we have no contact with the Israeli authorities and we would like to go through the Palestinian Authority. This is to support the.... We have always supported the PLO and we accept the PLO's decisions in regard to the Palestinian question. Now that this historic accord has been signed we support and endorse that and we wish very well to our Palestinian brothers and friends. And the visit of the prime minister would have been to endorse the decision taken by the PLO in this regard. [end recording]

#### **Rabin, Peres, Aloni Differ on Issue**

TA2908161694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have different positions on the Pakistani officials' visit to the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports that after concluding a tour of the Weizman Institute, Prime Minister Rabin said that yesterday's incident involving the Pakistani envoy did not constitute an obstacle to the peace process but was more like a tempest in a teacup. He

advised Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto to learn some manners as it was inconceivable for her to announce her imminent arrival in Gaza without being prepared to meet any Israelis.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 1500 GMT on 29 August carries a similar report with a recorded passage of Rabin's remarks in which he says: "We have no problem with the Pakistani prime minister or her representative visiting; however, if they want to visit the Gaza Strip they must submit an orderly request to Israel." In the same report, Tel Aviv IDF Radio notes that Minister Shulamit Aloni, who accompanied Rabin on the tour, said that "good manners obligate us to permit the lady to visit Gaza. Aloni added that preventing the Pakistani envoy's entry was unwise." In a recorded passage, Aloni says: "We have nothing to hide, and we must learn to stop acting like masters over the Palestinians' lives. One cannot recognize the Palestinians on the one hand, while continuing to dictate matters and lording it over them."]

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Foreign Minister Peres told a closed Foreign Ministry forum that Israel's decision to prevent the Pakistani envoy from entering the Gaza Strip may have been a bit hasty. Minister Peres nevertheless noted that Pakistani officials would only be allowed entry after they had approached Israel in an official manner.

Meanwhile, reports from Islamabad assert that Prime Minister Bhutto has canceled her plans to visit the Gaza Strip due to difficulties raised by Israel.

#### **Envoy Reports Pakistani Overtures**

TA3008090594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Israel's Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan held several unofficial meetings with Pakistan's ambassador in the Egyptian capital during events attended by both officials in Cairo. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the meetings were held prior to the publication of President Bhutto's intention to visit the Gaza Strip. Following the unofficial talks, Ambassador Sultan reported to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem that Pakistan is sending positive signals in Israel's direction.

#### **Peres on IDF Searches in Autonomy, Pakistan**

TA3008091594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Einstein] I would like to ask you about the interview with the commander of the autonomy police, who said he has not received the names of the Ramla murderers who apparently fled to the Gaza Strip. He made that statement a week after

declaring that the political echelon of the Palestinian Autonomy has not handed him orders to detain the perpetrators of the attack. Do you think this is part of some scheme?

[Peres] What he said today shows that had he received the names, he would have dealt with the matter.

[Einstein] But the report also said that somebody is deliberately not handing him the names.

[Peres] I am not sure about that. I think they hand over the names directly to him, since there is a direct link with him. I am not sure about the technical aspects.

[Einstein] Could there be circumstances under which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would not settle for denunciations of acts of murder and for presenting its complaints to the autonomy police, but would demand to enter the autonomy itself in order to capture murderers?

[Peres] I do not wish to issue threats and discuss various hypothetical situations. I can say only one thing: The Israeli Government and the IDF will use all the necessary means to capture the murderers. Period. What you are saying is that we should warn the Palestinian Authority and threaten it. I do not think there is any need for that. I do not think so many pronouncements are beneficial. There is an overall decision that we have the need and the right to do everything necessary to capture the murderers.

[Einstein] I would therefore like to ask you if you are satisfied with the way Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian political echelon have been handling those who perpetrate attacks

[Peres] I would like them to do more, but we also have to give them a chance to get their act together. We will pressure them to do more.

[Einstein] In reference to Pakistani President Bhutto's visit, which did not take place, do you think we acted properly in this affair?

[Peres] I believe we face a very difficult problem, because what we did in Gaza and Jericho is unprecedented in world politics. In addition to agreements and laws, we have to set precedents. We constantly come up against something new with which we do not know how to deal. This creates problems. The agreement deals specifically with VIP visits to the autonomy. In such cases, the visitor must turn to the Palestinian Authority, which then turns to us, even in the matter of countries that do not have diplomatic relations with us. We decide whether to agree. In this case, I believe there was a series of misunderstandings. Nabil Sha'th claimed that he turned to an IDF officer several days ago to ask for permission. The officer said he told Sha'th that he was not the proper address. That is how the strange dialogue started and continued to falter. I hope we will learn from it, and we will be prepared for the future.

[Einstein] In other words, we might have been too quick in our response?

[Peres] I think the Palestinian Authority should have tackled the matter differently. It knows to whom to address the issue; there is a civilian affairs committee. It should have turned to the committee, which would have prevented a series of mishaps, and the treatment would have been different.

[Einstein] In other words, you do not support the criticism by the prime minister, who called the Pakistani behavior bad manners?

[Peres] I think the prime minister referred to something Mrs. Bhutto said about her not seeing a single Israeli. That is something else; it has nothing to do with the visit itself.

[Einstein] There are also reports about meetings between our ambassador in Egypt and the Pakistani ambassador. Do you think an opportunity for rapprochement was missed?

[Peres] I do not think so. I do not think that the Pakistanis are ready to establish ties with Israel at this time. There are informal ties in many places around the world. A low-level secretary at the Pakistani Embassy informed a low-level secretary at the Israeli Embassy of the meeting. Had it all been organized as it should have been, I believe the incident could have been avoided.

[Einstein] Do you think Israeli representatives should have waited two hours for the Palestinian representative to arrive for the ceremony at which the early empowerment agreement was signed—a delay that was a deliberate protest move?

[Peres] I denounce the Palestinian delay, but there are too many opportunities and pressure to get involved in wars over prestige. We are the grown-up, giving, and strong side, but we will not allow this to repeat itself. In my view, it was bad behavior by the Palestinians.

#### **Rabin Holds Consultation on Early Empowerment**

TA2608133694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today convened a consultation on the issue of the early empowerment agreement signed with the Palestinians in Cairo. The consultation was attended by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Minister Yosi Sarid, and the senior echelon of the defense establishment. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Major General Dani Rothschild briefed the gathering about the agreement, and the participants expressed satisfaction because it was made clear that the powers included in the agreement coincide with the Declaration of Principles and do not relate to Jerusalem, the settlements, and security zones.

According to the agreement, the Palestinians will not establish a supreme enforcement body. Instead, enforcement powers will be limited to specific spheres and the

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supervisors involved will not wear uniforms or bear arms. The attendants also expressed satisfaction over the fact that the powers will be transferred in practice only after the donors meeting on 8 September.

#### **Rabin, Peres Said To Differ on Syria Talks**

TA2808152494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Aug 94  
pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal, Gay Bekhor, and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in the Middle East on 11 September in order to resume his shuttle mission between Damascus and Jerusalem. During his two-day visit, he is scheduled to meet with Syrian President al-Asad and Foreign Minister al-Shar' and with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. [passage omitted]

Senior Israeli political sources yesterday said that Christopher's arrival does not mean that progress is being made on the Syrian track, but it does indicate that the Americans have not despaired of an arrangement between Israel and Syria and are continuing to invest efforts in the hope of attaining a breakthrough.

A senior source who is close to the prime minister said last week that Rabin has clarified to Syria, via the Americans, that Israel will agree to implement a significant withdrawal on the Golan—albeit, not from all of the Golan—in exchange for a Syrian commitment to a full peace agreement parallel to the withdrawal. This withdrawal would be implemented over a period of at least five years, during which all aspects of normalization—including opening the borders to trade and tourism, exchanging ambassadors, etc.—will be tested. The senior source added that State Department officials agree with Rabin that the withdrawal must be extended over a long period in order to test the developing relations between the two countries, but they maintain that three years is enough for this.

The Americans also maintain that in exchange for full peace, Israel will be required to implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, buttressed by appropriate security arrangements, such as deep demilitarization zones, especially on the Syrian side; U.S. buffer forces on the Golan; etc. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told correspondents in Valletta at the end of a two-day visit to Malta last Thursday [25 August] that the depth of Israel's withdrawal on the Golan will equal the depth of security and peace guaranteed to Israel.

Peres' remarks echo Rabin's formula for an arrangement with Syria on the Golan. A Jerusalem source said, however, that there is a difference between Rabin's and Peres' attitude toward an agreement with Syria. Peres is willing to implement a deeper withdrawal on the Golan than is Rabin. Peres also believes that had Rabin put him in charge of the Syrian track, he would have been able to attain an agreement with Syria within three months by using a secret channel similar to the Oslo talks.

The source said that Rabin, however, is unwilling to put the Syrian track in Peres' hands. [passage omitted]

#### **Rabin Meets With Lao Foreign Minister**

TA2808173894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600  
GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met today with the Lao foreign minister and invited the prime minister of Laos to visit Israel. Yitzhaq Rabin voiced satisfaction with Laos' decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and expressed readiness to cooperate with Laos in every field.

#### **Agreement Signed With Egyptian Industrialists**

TA2808154594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500  
GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] A cooperation agreement between Egyptian and Israeli industrialists has been signed in Tel Aviv. Dan Proper, the head of the Manufacturer's Association, said the agreement will encourage joint exports and open new markets for Israeli industry, mainly in the Gulf states.

Muhammad Hamis, the head of the Industrial Federations of Egypt, expressed the hope that the agreement will strengthen commercial ties with Israeli companies.

#### **Security Forces Capture 'Terrorists' at Nahal 'Oz**

TA2808174094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600  
GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] The security forces have captured an armed terrorist squad near Kibbutz Nahal 'Oz. The squad, which numbered at least six Arabs from the Gaza Strip, was on its way to commit a terrorist attack in one of the nearby kibbutzim. The terrorists were captured on 22 August. The authorities are investigating whether the squad was on its way to perpetrate a terrorist attack in Kibbutz Be'eri.

#### **Army Order Bans Hitchhiking in Territories**

TA2608180894 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television  
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Report by military correspondent Roni Daniyel]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has received warnings about plans by terrorist organizations to increase the number of attempted kidnappings of Israeli civilians and soldiers. This is how Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, explains the new directive he issued—to soldiers as well as civilians—to avoid hitchhiking in the territories. Our military correspondent Roni Daniyel reports:

[Begin recording] [Daniyel] Hitchhiking in Judea and Samaria is henceforth forbidden. Soldiers received orders on this issue, while civilians received recommendations to this effect. The only exception to this ruling are Israeli vehicles clearly identified as such at IDF

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roadblocks. The events of the last days, in which there were unsuccessful kidnapping and murder attempts, forced the IDF to step up supervision along the roads in the framework of the ongoing manhunt after the fugitive squads:

[Biran] We have certainly received warnings about such intentions, therefore some time ago we decided that soldiers in Judaea and Samaria are forbidden from hitchhiking. Now the ruling holds for the Central Command soldiers in all parts of Israel. As for civilians, I held a meeting with the general secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and asked him to direct civilians also to avoid hitchhiking. [passage omitted] [end recording]

#### IDF Gaza Commander on Security Situation

TA2708142594 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 26 Aug 94 pp 1, 2, 3

[Interview with Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of the IDF forces in the Gaza Strip, by correspondent Yosi Walter; place and date not given]

[Text] [Walter] Brig. Gen. Almog, are you satisfied with the performance and cooperation of the Palestinian police?

[Almog] Its performance is improving. This can be discerned even through the behavior of the most junior officers. There are fewer violations of the agreement. Recently there has been a drastic decrease in the number of cases in which our forces have been delayed at roadblocks, as well as in the number of cases involving delaying Israeli civilians on the roads. There are also fewer cases of our forces being threatened by cocked weapons. All in all the situation is much calmer.

[Walter] What is the attitude of the senior officers?

[Almog] There are two circles here. There is a group which evinces great commitment to the process and is totally cooperative. There is another group of officers who are evincing manipulative behavior. The first group has undergone a real conceptual turnabout after they saw we were serious. When they were in Tunis they did not believe we would give them arms. These people told me that the fact we gave them weapons and are not afraid they would stab us in our backs created a deep commitment on their part. They also did not believe we would hand over installations and equipment. All this did something to them. They feel that at least the Israeli officers are determined to implement the process. I feel we have won their confidence. They also believe that peace is vital for the Palestinians and desire to facilitate its implementation. Therefore their attitude and the way they handle problems is very businesslike.

[Walter] What about the manipulators?

[Almog] Here is an example of their behavior: just today they complained that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] helicopters flew over the autonomy's airspace. This is permissible according to the agreement, but they

complained nevertheless. This sort of behavior is creating unnecessary confusion and is diverting us from the real issues. During the shooting incident in the Kissufim corridor, for example, there were officers who realized that real answers must be provided and that we should not rush to see what the agreement has to say in every case. The members of the first group say: Leave the agreement alone and do whatever is necessary to prevent a deterioration. They realize that the more security there is, the quicker will normalization take place. The manipulators, on the other hand, hang on to trivial details.

[Walter] Who is more dominant, the manipulators or those evincing positive behavior?

[Almog] I am happy to say that the number of officers who realize the importance of implementing the agreement is on the rise. In this context I am satisfied with the statement of General Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the Palestinian police, who said that he will pursue and apprehend Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people who have murdered Fatah men, even if 100 policemen die in the process. Gen. Yusuf also said that Hamas and 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam members have hardly been dealt with. He believes the police can act more firmly against those carrying out attacks if it receives clear instructions from the leadership. I would be happy to hear such a statement from 'Arafat himself.

[Walter] You claim that the Palestinian policemen are evincing a calm and relaxed attitude. It appears that the Jewish settlers do not share this feeling.

[Almog] I also notice a much more calm attitude on the part of the Jews, even a hope that the process will result in a better situation. There is obviously a potential for escalation, and there is a concern about the worst-case scenario. On the whole, however, we must remember that grave phenomena such as stabbings, petrol bombs, and stone throwing have disappeared. The level of friction between us and them has drastically dropped. In the beginning it was hard for the settlers to see an armed Palestinian policeman driving by, but one gets used to such things. Slowly a situation of coexistence is being created in the area.

Here is one example: A wedding took place in Kfar Darom near the main road which is also used by Palestinians. The settlers requested that during the wedding no Arab vehicles drive by. We directed this request to the Palestinian police and received full cooperation. The policemen diverted the traffic to alternative routes. The Jews must also get used to making compromises. Yesterday I held a meeting with Netzarim settlers about their security problems. One of the decisions adopted was that every civilian vehicle leaving the settlement will have to receive military escort. The settlers were annoyed and claimed that this would harm their living conditions. I told them that they are living in an area in which there are 800,000 Arabs and this requires such decisions.

[Walter] And yet attacks are being carried out. Forty shooting incidents have occurred since the inception of the autonomy. Three soldiers and one civilian were murdered.

[Almog] These attacks are being carried out by three methods: shooting from ambush, firing from a passing car, and firing from far off which usually misses the target. The terrorists concentrate their efforts on Jewish settlement blocs—Kissufim, Netzarim, and Sufa—as well as on the main roads. Most of the attacks are aimed against IDF soldiers rather than civilians. At the same time we must not ignore the fall in the number of attacks. During the first five months of the year—until the establishment of the autonomy—there have been 113 attacks. From May to the present only 40 attacks have occurred. The fact that violent incidents which occurred in the past have disappeared makes it possible to return to normal rather quickly. Naturally, each incident increases the potential for an escalation.

[Walter] Who is responsible for these attacks?

[Almog] Four Islamic Jihad and 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads comprising altogether some 20 persons. They have a limited amount of arms. According to our ballistic tests some 15 firearms are involved. Our findings indicate that the same people are involved in all the attacks. They usually employ a hit and run tactic: they open fire from close range and make their escape in their cars to the autonomous area via some side road. When they fire from their cars they also choose some side roads for escaping in order to avoid contact with Palestinian policemen.

[Walter] What answers does the IDF have? Do you feel that our reaction ability has been adversely effected by the autonomy borders?

[Almog] It is very difficult to deal with this problem. Palestinians and Jews are intermingled. They travel on the same roads. There are armed Palestinian policemen wearing civilian clothes. It is difficult to tell who is friend, who is foe. As for our reaction ability, you must remember that even when we controlled Gaza we did not pursue terrorists, because all our chases failed. They always managed to escape very quickly. Except for two cases, we always caught the terrorists in pinpoint operations conducted later on. In this respect the freedom of action we have enjoyed in the past has been damaged. We are no longer free to conduct pinpoint operations in order to apprehend terrorists.

[Walter] And what is the Palestinian police doing?

[Almog] It is carrying out searches, sealing off areas, and detaining suspects. We must not forget Gen. Yusuf's comments, however, namely that a directive by the political echelon is called for. I hope such instructions will be issued as soon as possible. We will demand that the Palestinian police use force in order to apprehend the terrorists. It has a good intelligence network and is

capable of catching them. Their determination to implement this will reflect another stage in the process on the ground. If there is an escalation in the attacks and the Palestinian police evinces incompetence, we will have to consider whether to return to our previous mode of operation.

[Walter] Can you be more specific?

[Almog] I am referring to initiated pinpoint operations within the autonomous areas, with or without coordination with the Palestinian Authority. We are preparing for these possibility. I believe Gen. Yusuf understands the connection between security for the Jews and the chain reaction which could result from the scenario I just described. This is also clear to some of the officers. We have already entered the autonomous area after the shooting incidents and went as far as the terrorists' traces led us, some three kilometers deep. In future, if the situation deteriorates and we face a dilemma, the Israeli leadership will have to make decisions.

[Walter] Do you believe that the Palestinian policemen are ready to act against their brethren?

[Almog] This is primarily a leadership decision. Naturally the policemen identify with their people. Some of them have brothers and relatives in Hamas. The Arab world, however, has already seen authorities acting against extremists.

[Walter] The situation in the Gaza Strip is different.

[Almog] Correct. The very existence of a Palestinian police force is problematic. At the same time a new reality is being created on the ground. Until recently the situation of the collaborators was difficult. Now they can see me riding together with Gen. Yusuf, and they can also see the joint patrols. This is also a form of collaboration.

[Walter] To what extent does the economic situation influence the level of attacks?

[Almog] The situation is very difficult. They must understand, however, that in order to obtain the donors' funds for building their economy they must act according to a different behavioral and cultural code.

[Walter] Do you sense any criticism against 'Arafat in your contacts with the Palestinians?

[Almog] I can sense different kinds of reactions. Gen. Yusuf's remarks includes criticism of the leadership. When a growing number of officers deal with us in a businesslike manner, yet at the same time receive orders from the leadership which contradict their views, this could create a conflict.

[Walter] When you speak about a conflict are you referring to a military coup?

[Almog] I would not rule out this possibility, just as I would not rule out the possibility that the policemen's

motivation could be harmed if they face starvation because their salaries are not being paid and they are reduced to selling weapons or drug dealing for surviving. Therefore if the leadership wants to preserve its power base it must safeguard the Palestinian policemen's positive image and at the same time issue clear orders. The more mixed orders they receive, the more difficult will it be for them to function. The officers are not hiding their criticism and are voicing it at the top echelons. The circle is widening, and consequently in view of this criticism your assessment is indeed includes this possibility.

[Walter] Do you think that in certain conditions there can be a second Lebanon here, that terrorists might fire katyushas into Israeli territory?

[Almog] My answer is that everyone shares the same basic motivations. Everyone wants to reach the same target. 'Arafat's target is a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Now the way to attain this target may be viewed differently by the Palestinian generals. This difference could be sharpened because of the negative processes taking place, such as the reduction in the policemen's salaries. Anything which might harm the status or strength of the Palestinian police could create such a situation. Closing down sources of income or projects could create an escalation and cause anarchy.

[Walter] Are you optimistic?

[Almog] I think the agreement is problematic, hard to implement, and is advancing slowly. I would like it to achieve quicker progress. I am aware of the potential problems and the potential for escalation inherent in events on the ground, especially terror attacks resulting in casualties. A chain reaction from such an attack could result in a serious crisis. We know that it is not always the leaders' strategic objectives that determine events on the ground.

#### **Netanyahu: Government Built 'Terrorist' Refuge**

TA2808174394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has demanded that the government impose a total closure on the territories and only lift it after the murderers of Gil Revah and Shlomi Kapah are turned over to Israel.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that at a Likud rally in Tel Aviv, Binyamin Netanyahu said it is not the building contractors in Ramla who were responsible for the incident but rather the architects of the agreement with the Palestinians, who built cities of refuge for the terrorists.

#### **Editorial Warns Against 'Terrorist State' in Gaza**

TA2808153394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Gaza—Not Algeria"]

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has assumed responsibility for the murder in Ramla. The murderers escaped to the Gaza Strip, to the Palestinian autonomy area, where they hope to vanish among the local population and benefit from the de facto immunity afforded by the PLO to Hamas terror squads and from the deliberate impotence evinced by the Palestinian police in dealing with them.

Their hope must not materialize. We are dealing here with the cruel murder of two innocent Israeli citizens within Israel territory. The criminals who committed this crime must be severely punished, without any compromises or prevarication.

The solution will not be found in another closure on Gaza, because the murderers enter Israel without work permits. A closure will only turn Gaza into a focal point of despair and pressure. The solution, on Israel's part, should be sought in employing only Palestinians who possess work permits and in punishing negligent contractors who are willing to risk the lives of their Israeli workers for an easy buck. On the Palestinian side, the solution must involve the apprehension of killers who hide inside the autonomy. Their identity is known, and the Palestinian security service can find them. It is only necessary to dispatch the Palestinian police in order to forcefully detain them.

The experience of moderate Arab states teaches us that it is impossible to coexist and cooperate with the violent, murderous Islamic terrorism. It is possible to maintain a dialogue with moderate Islamic elements—and apparently there are such elements within Hamas as well—but it is absolutely necessary to apprehend and try the members of the murder squads, their commanders, and their operators. 'Arafat is also aware of this. So far, he has avoided a direct confrontation with them, but now the time for such a confrontation has arrived.

This is certainly not an easy test for the Palestinian Authority. But it is vital. The next few days will not merely test the future of relations between Israel and the autonomy but also the legal basis of the autonomy—whether it is a law-abiding entity or a jungle.

'Arafat's choice, as head of the Palestinian National Authority, is very simple: Either he controls Hamas extremists, or they gain control over the Gaza Strip, just as they are currently doing in Algeria. If this happens, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will have to reenter the place sooner or later.

Israel will not tolerate the existence of a crazy Islamic terrorist state in the Gaza Strip.

**King Says No Intention To Compete on Jerusalem**

JN2808103394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has emphasized his confidence that Jordan's efforts to realize peace will help advance the process of comprehensive peace in the region. He hopes that positive developments will take place on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

His majesty said the clause in the Washington Declaration regarding Jerusalem was a reaffirmation of the real situation. The side that we had fought recognized Jordan's role in Jerusalem on behalf of the Islamic world, and this is a responsible role that we will continue to play with no intention to compete with or impose our presence on anyone.

On the Turkish president's current visit to Jordan, his majesty said Jordanian-Turkish relations are close and there are joint issues the two countries want to develop. He added that the talks between the two sides will deal with the peace process and water in the region, in addition to developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Balkans.

In an interview with the Qatari News Agency, conducted by the agency's director general and chief editor Ahmad Jasim, his majesty said Jordanian-Qatari relations are excellent, and the same is the case with Jordan's relations with the Sultanate of Oman. He said Jordan's relations with other brothers are witnessing the start of relaxation and return to normalcy on the basis of the joint march.

His majesty said Jordanian-Qatari relations are based on solid grounds of mutual confidence and real desire to cooperate. He expressed belief that the two countries' views on issues and developments in the region and the world are close. He hoped that the future of these relations will be beneficial to the two fraternal states and peoples.

**Crown Prince Hasan Returns From Turkey**

JN2708202194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received His Highness Crown Prince Hasan upon his return to Amman today from a visit of several days to Turkey. [passage omitted]

**Paper Reports 'Naval Blockade' of al-'Aqabah Over**

JN2708080294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 94 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The first interception-free vessel arrived at al-'Aqabah late Thursday carrying steel for the Jordanian market after American-led warships moved

away from the Tiran Straits and independent surveyors took up position at the port, shipping officials said Friday.

"The naval blockade of al-'Aqabah is over," said Tawfiq Qa'war, chairman of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA), referring to the four-year-old de facto siege of Jordan's only port, one of the key inlets for Iraqi imports.

The first ship to arrive was the Aquilla carrying 7,300 tonnes of steel for a local importer, Mr. Qa'war said. Two other ships carrying Australian sheep were expected to arrive late Friday.

It was not immediately clear whether the American warships patrolling the Red Sea to enforce the international sanctions against Iraq had disappeared from the scene, but Pentagon officials have said that the replacement of offshore inspections with the land-based verification regime by Lloyd's Register of Shipping was "transitional" for one month.

They said the U.S. would review the Lloyd's procedures after one month before withdrawing its warships from the area although patrolling of the Red Sea as part of American "security arrangements" in the region would continue.

In any case, observers noted that the presence of American warships outside Jordan's territorial waters was of no concern to the Kingdom as long as they did not interfere with free navigation into and out of al-'Aqabah.

At the United Nations meanwhile, Jordan, the U.N. and Lloyds Register signed two agreements. The first agreement covered the setting up of an escrow account to which Jordan would pay fees collected from importers and exporters to pay for the Lloyd's presence at al-'Aqabah. The U.N. will control the account and make the payment to Lloyd's Register.

The second agreement was a framework for the first agreement and the U.N. approach to an accord signed by Jordan and Lloyd's Register last month paving the way for the land-based verification regime.

The Kingdom's permanent delegate to the United Nations, Adnan Abu-Awdah, signed the accords with the U.N., the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Meanwhile, shipping sources at al-'Aqabah described the Lloyd's observation of cargo at the port as strict and tough.

"They go through the cargo with a toothcomb," said one source.

In comments to the press, Ports Corporation Director-General Durayd Mahasinah described the new arrangement at al-'Aqabah as an achievement and breakthrough for Jordanian diplomacy.

Mr. Mahasinah also said that the land-based verifications would be more precise and give Jordan better control of the situation under the supervision of Lloyd's Register.

Mr. Qa'war said Lloyd's Register surveyors had arrived at the port early this month and had been conducting "practice runs" of the verification procedures.

The eight-member Lloyd's register team work in close coordination with the Jordanian ports and customs authorities and observe all incoming and outgoing cargo as part of Jordanian regulations and make its reports to the U.N. Sanctions Committee. This procedures apply to imports for the Jordanian market.

Imports for Iraq would be treated differently. All Iraq-bound cargo would be unloaded at a separate warehouse and all items except food and medicine would be cleared out only if they have prior approval from the Sanctions Committee.

In another development, 'Isam Qa'war, the al-'Aqabah representative of the Shipping Agents Association, said Jeddah port authorities had cleared 56 of nearly 500 containers for transshipments to al-'Aqabah. The containers were unloaded by ships at the Saudi Red Sea port for transshipment, but were stuck there after Jeddah port authorities decided to inspect the cargo themselves.

Although the self-assumed Saudi inspections were believed to have been over—with little finding of any violations of the sanctions—unclear directives by top Saudi officials at the port have led to the containers being stuck at Jeddah.

#### **Saudis Order Containers Released**

*JN3008104794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Aug 94 p 1*

[Text] Amman—The Ports Authorities in Saudi Arabia have allowed all the Jordanian goods containers at Jeddah Port to be immediately released to the Port of al-'Aqabah.

The Jordanian Shipping Agents Union yesterday said that the decision made by the Saudi Port Authorities two days ago returns the situation to normal.

The union noted that the Jordanian goods containers will arrive in al-'Aqabah within the next few days.

#### **Talks With Palestinians Said 'Failed'**

*JN2908170794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 29 Aug 94 pp 1, 3*

[Excerpts] AL-MAJD has learned that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks that concluded last Monday [22 August] failed to bring views close together or to thwart the doubts of both sides.

The talks were led on the Jordanian side by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, and on the Palestinian side by Culture and Information Minister Yasir

'Abd-Rabbuh. Sources taking part in the talks said frankness, credibility, and goodwill were all absent from the talks and that the subjects of dispute were referred to joint technical committees.

AL-MAJD also learned that the Jordanian delegation turned a deaf ear to Palestinian complaints about the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, under which Jordan will export goods worth of \$30 million to the occupied territories. Instead of showing readiness to review and amend the issue, Jordan said it considered the agreement a major gain and an important step toward rectifying the trade balance with the occupied territories, which have been exporting amounts of goods larger than those which both sides had approved. The Jordanian side said it would reconsider the agreement only when the Palestinian self-rule covers all the occupied territories.

The second subject of dispute, which was raised by the Palestinian delegation and which was not fully clarified by Jordan, was the issue of border demarcation between Jordan and the occupied territories. The Palestinian delegation said that border demarcation should take place between Jordan and the self-rule authority rather than between Jordan and Israel. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian delegation fears that Jordan's religious jurisdiction, its economic ties with the West Bank behind the back of the Palestinian [National] Authority, and the planned establishment of direct and bilateral crossings between Jordan and Israel in the north and the south without passing through the territories occupied in 1967 may gradually turn Jordan into alternative to the Palestinian Authority, especially when that authority fails as a result of perpetual Israeli pressure, the lack of international financial support, and gradual demographic affiliation with Jordan. This, in turn, will lead either to the return of Israeli military rule and occupation to the West Bank and Gaza Strip or to the annexation of these territories to Jordan within the framework of a unionist federation.

An informed Palestinian source said that Egypt, which strongly supports the Palestinian Authority, warned Yasir 'Arafat that any failure to build Palestinian institutions and any contradiction with the Israeli Government will contribute to the idea of the Jordanian alternative.

During last week's talks, Jordan made several complaints. First, that 'Arafat incites Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco against Jordan by tempting them that they would be allowed to take part in supervising the holy places when Jordan was excluded from that mission. [passage omitted]

Sources participating in the meetings also told AL-MAJD that the disappointing results of these meetings prevented King Husayn from receiving the Palestinian delegation, although the Jordanian side attributed it to King Husayn's presence in al-'Aqabah at that time. These results also prevented 'Arafat from paying a visit

to Jordan—a visit that would have eased tension and increased coordination and cooperation.

**IAF: ICPD Aimed at 'Foreign Domination'**

JN3008113594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English  
30 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Monday blasted the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development scheduled for Sept. 5 to 13 in Cairo, saying it was aimed at perpetuating foreign domination of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Accusing the "Jews" of being behind the conference's organisation, the IAF statement urged the Jordanian government and Arab states to boycott the meeting and never to comply with its resolutions.

The IAF statement, which was made available to the Jordan Times Monday, reflected the views of the 16-member Islamic parliamentary group, the largest political bloc in the Lower House of Parliament, and echoed the Egyptian Islamist groups who have been campaigning against the coming conference in Cairo.

Following is the text of the statement:

1.—The coming conference in Cairo is one more link in a long chain of conference enveloped with false slogans, like safeguarding human rights and protecting the environment and childhood or doing justice to women and achieving development.

These are in fact aimed at protecting the interests of the Western communities who feel superior to other communities and who consider the other nations as being made up of second degree human beings whose task is to please the Western citizens.

2.—The Western mentality is secular and materialistic in nature and has no respect for religious values because it is solely aimed at serving Western interests at the expense of the misery of others.

In expressing the American policy (Draper) says: The countries of the developing world are mere animals which, should they increase in number, the guards ought to interfere in an arbitrary manner to ensure the reduction of the animals numbers.

3.—The Cairo conference aims at reducing the rate of the world's population growth under the pretext that increases in world population constitute a major obstacle in the face of development plans; and at enhancing the role of the United Nations,—which is now totally under American hegemony—to serve as a world government ruling the world.

The conference also aims at foiling the Third World nations' drive to utilise natural resources at their disposal so that they remain stored for the West's benefit.

The West consumed more than 80 per cent of the world's natural resources for the benefit of less than 20 per cent of the world's population.

4.—In order to achieve these goals the world conference's programme demands that Third World nations delay the age of marriage, delay pregnancy, reduce the rate of fertility to the lowest possible level, which can be done through legalising abortion that entails killing innocent lives for the sake of ensuring the success of the United States project that was declared by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger who said: The Third World population growth is tantamount to an aggression on U.S. national security.

5.—This conference is shamelessly calling on nations to approve licentious sexual relationships and extramarital sex, and is urging people to condone homosexuality in the name of freedom and equality, thus violating religious values and moral principles.

6.—To ensure the success of this project, the organisers are linking aid offered to developing nations to these nations' commitment to implementing the conference's programme, claiming that development can only be achieved through this recipe.

7.—Despite the Jews' drive to increase their number one can see that Jewish fingers are behind such projects because it is the Jews who hope to reap the greatest benefits from this programme since it aims at reducing population density which constitutes a danger for the Jews, especially once these nations which surround the Jewish state have attained the necessary skill to induce genuine development and acquire appropriate technology for achieving that goal.

The IAF views the coming conference as one marked with an aggressive spirit which is inherent in this programme which contradicts human nature and religious values.

This conference aims at perpetuating the colonialist and expansionist lust of pillaging the wealth of Third World nations.

The IAF highly values the daring voices that have already condemned the conference and these include Al-Azhar Al-Sharif University and its august scholars, Dar al-Ifta' of Egypt, the Islamic Brotherhood in Egypt and scholars like Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, Shaykh Hafiz Salamah and honourable writers as well as the Vatican which has already voiced its strong opposition to the conference and the two Jordanian Parliament members Muhammad 'Uwaydah and Khalil Haddadin who have declared their boycott of the conference.

The IAF calls:

1.—On the Jordanian government and other Arab and Islamic governments to boycott the projected conference because it constitutes a flagrant aggression on the family institution, social structure and moral and spiritual values.

2.—On Arab and Islamic peoples to reject the outcome and the resolution of the coming conference as these are non-binding to them, but merely represent the signatories alone.

3.—On the educational, cultural and information institutions to spread awareness among the Islamic communities against the dangers inherent in this conference and its likes and to strive towards immunising the family and the community through educational programmes.

#### **Muslim Brotherhood Official on Democracy, Violence**

JN2908204094 *Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic*  
25-31 Aug 94 pp 20-23

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat, controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood group in Jordan, by unidentified correspondent in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-SHURUQ] Some of your leaders, such as Dr. Muhammad Abu-Faris, say that you do not believe in democracy because it means the rule of the people, whereas you believe in the rule of God. To what extent do you support this argument?

[Al-Dhunaybat] In principle, I agree with it. Democracy, as a philosophical, earthly concept, is not ours. We disagree with it and its advocates. But if we view democracy and its practices in terms of man's freedom of expression and peoples' right to self-determination and to choose their leaders and parliaments, then it should be viewed as the other face of shura [consultation]. We agree with many of aspects of democracy. We disagree with democracy from a philosophical point of view in terms of philosophical foundation on which it is based. But we are trying to adapt to some of its ideas. For example, we compare the right of lawmaking, which democracy gives to parliament, to the Islamic concept of interpretation [ijtihad].

[AL-SHURUQ] But Islamic groups have conspicuously different views about interpretation. In light of this, Islamic groups are engaged in "jihad" within their own countries. Other Islamic factions call for change through the use of logic and peaceful means. Therefore, people need democracy so as to decide how to apply Islamic law, instead of having a person giving himself the right to do this, calling himself the commander of the faithful.

[Al-Dhunaybat] We believe that the Muslim Brotherhood is the mother movement of all Islamic movements that appeared in the 20th century. All other movements have broken away from the Muslim Brotherhood, such as the al-Tahrir Party and the Islamic groups engaged in violence in Egypt, because they did not believe in its style. However, the objective is the same, the application of the rules of God. We all agree on this; the difference is how to arrive at this objective.

The Muslim Brotherhood believes that we should gradually start from the Muslim individual, up to the Muslim

family, the Muslim community, and then the Muslim state. At the present time, we renounce violence as a way of change from any source. We have tried such means. The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria has tried it. The result was displacement and woes. It has been tried in other countries. We have learned a great deal from that. This is what distinguishes the Muslim Brotherhood world movement from other movements. Therefore, we call for political pluralism, power sharing, and women's right to vote and to be elected. This is a development that occurred in the new thinking of the Muslim Brotherhood, enabling it to surpass many other Islamic movements. What is going on in Egypt is the antithesis of our Islamic model.

[AL-SHURUQ] But violence is not new in the history of the Islamic movement and the Muslim Brotherhood. Sayyid Qutub theorized about it. There were Muslim Brotherhood armed groups in Egypt before violence was used against them. Remarkably, although the Muslim Brotherhood organizations, including you in Jordan, do not support violence, you maintain alliances with Islamic organizations engaged in violence, such as the National Islamic Front [NIF] in Sudan.

[Al-Dhunaybat] Against whom is the NIF using violence in Sudan? Against Garang?

[AL-SHURUQ] This is not what I mean. It has come to power through a military coup, and oppressed and tortured all other parties.

[Al-Dhunaybat] These are the practices of a state.

[AL-SHURUQ] But it is a state based on a political organization.

[Al-Dhunaybat] The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and the Muslim Brotherhood as a whole share the same thought. This thought is based on renouncing violence from any source. We renounce violence and say that the alternative is political reform and respect for Islamic shari'ah, which constitutes the base of powers as approved by all Arab and Islamic constitutions. In Jordan, there is an article in the Constitution that says that Islam is the religion of the state. The charter, which was laid down by the entire political spectrum, including the authority, says that Islamic shari'ah is the source of laws.

From this premise, we do not cooperate with groups that advocate terrorism and violence. We have our own distinguished course here in Jordan, and so does the general course of Islamic movement in the world.

As for the history of the Muslim Brotherhood to which you have referred, I believe that it was misrepresented. In fact, the secret organization to which you have referred was established to fight the English and the Zionists.

[AL-SHURUQ] You are opposed to the option of violence in Jordan, and yet you maintain close ties with a

leading member of Yemen's Muslim Brotherhood, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, who bankrolls violence in your country, as it emerged in ongoing investigations with the latest Afghan group to stand trial in Jordan.

[Al-Dhunaybat] I am surprised by such claims. We support all Islamic movements loyal to their religion. Brothers in Yemen are active in politics responsibly. They have members on the Presidential Council and in the House of Representatives and never believed in violence. I find it strange that al-Zindani's name should be associated with violence in Jordan. Al-Zindani himself has made a categorical denial of such involvement.

To the best of my knowledge, it is a matter of principle for the Brotherhood members in Yemen not to intervene in other Brotherhood's affairs. They have their own problems to attend to; they have no time to turn their attention elsewhere. Nor do they have any interest in relocating their activities outside Yemen, either through funding or any other means. They are in no financial position to do so.

[Al-SHURUQ] But al-Zindani admits to have met with Usamah Bin-Ladin to look into the affairs of the Islamic nation.

[Al-Dhunaybat] As one of the Islamic nation's leaders, al-Zindani can meet and compare notes with any Brotherhood member over the concerns of the Islamic nation. That he met with Usamah Bin-Ladin or any other person advocating violence cannot be taken to mean that he supports his cause.

[AL-SHURUQ] What about your empathy with all the groups that have engaged in violence in Jordan, although you do not believe in violence, as you say. Jordan's military prosecutor Muhannad Hijazi has indicated that the people who carried out acts of violence in Jordan trace their roots to the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Al-Dhunaybat] We did not sympathize with their violence; we identify with all political detainees whatever their political persuasion. We are against the investigation in its present form. We also reject arrests and disinformation, and are equally opposed to illegal and unconstitutional practices whatever their source or target. We have from the start had our reservations about the State Security Court and are for the formation of a different one. We have proposed an alternative through a bill that we moved in the House of Representatives. We reject such special courts as the State Security Court.

Such crimes must be heard by civil courts of law, and defendants should be afforded the right of free speech and to hire defense lawyers. A suspect should not be detained for unduly long periods. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHURUQ] Don't you think that by brandishing the threat of pulling out of the House of Representatives at your most recent news conference you have shifted to the hawks camp?

[Al-Dhunaybat] No. What I said was that as Brotherhood members we put forward our viewpoint on a pullout and other matters. The decision, however, is for the Islamic Action Front to make.

As for the word hawks, God willing, all of us are hawks in the cause of God, but not according to the journalistic classification of hawks and doves. We will stand by the Brotherhood's decisions and unity. Whoever goes along with the Brotherhood's decisions is a hawk and whoever does not you can call him what you will.

#### 'Younger' Brotherhood Members Voice 'Discontent'

JN2908143094 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 29 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned the Muslim Brotherhood's rank and file, as well as younger members, have given voice to their discontent, protesting what they call the leadership's moderation and reconciliatory and passive political line toward developments in the settlement process and the agreements of conciliation and normalization.

Informed sources said Attorney 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat, the Muslim Brotherhood's controller general, noticed this discontent among younger members in his meetings with them during visits to various parts of the Kingdom after his election to that post. The sources added that the controller general, who accepted the younger members' heated remarks in a spirit of democracy and tolerance, also heard criticism of his recent press interviews, as well as criticism of remarks by some Brotherhood leaders in television debates and the continued presence of Brotherhood deputies in parliament.

#### 'Afghans' Defense Team Questions Court Legality

JN2808111194 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 28 Aug 94 p 21

[Report by Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Text] The defense team officially assigned with defending the defendants in the state security case, who are accused of belonging to an illegitimate group and of participating in a plot to commit terrorist acts, has questioned the legality of the court, the investigation process, and the violation of its rules and said the court has no jurisdiction over such cases.

During yesterday's session, chaired by Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin, together with Col. Tayil al-Raqqad and Col. Fawwaz al-Buqur, the defense demanded that the 12th defendant, 'Id al-Jahalin, be referred for medical checkups because he suffers from schizophrenia. This defendant was responsible for placing explosives in Salwa Cinema, which went off while he was in the theater.

The general prosecutor Col. Mahmud 'Ubaydat objected to the defense request and demanded to be given until the next session to respond to the defense memoranda.

There are 21 defendants in the case, known as the Jordanian Afghans case, in addition to one suspect and three defendants at large whom the court decided to try in

absentia. These are Yahya 'Uyaydat, Muhammad al-Sawarikah, Muhammad Jamal Khalifah, and Muhammad Ahmad al-Harithi.

The State Security Court will resume trial of the defendants during its third session that will be held Sunday morning to hear the general prosecutor's reply to the defense memoranda.

### Al-Hariri Denies Settlement of Palestinians

NC2908133894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030  
GMT 29 Aug 94

[News conference by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 29 August—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] It has been reported that you will soon present a political and economic solution to the cabinet regarding the housing of the Palestinian refugees. Is this true?

[Al-Hariri] I have not read today's newspapers. This issue has shown us something. We have already informed all officials of the world that the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon has been rejected by all Lebanese. This is not only outlined in the Constitution; there is a full Lebanese agreement rejecting the resettlement. The problem is that certain people are trying to portray the issue as if there are people who are (?for) settlement and others who are opposed. There are no inter-Lebanese differences over this issue. When I traveled to New York last year, I informed the U.S. President of this stance. I also informed Mitterrand, the pope, [name indistinct], and all Arab officials I visited. During some of my travels Minister Junblatt was with me and he also expressed the same stance. There is full Lebanese agreement rejecting the principle of resettlement. What is at issue is not the resettlement: As a result of the war, Palestinians were forced out of certain camps. There is difficulty in returning them to these camps. The disagreement lies in how to resolve this issue. It is a question of housing. There are four possible solutions:

The first solution is to let them continue to occupy the buildings where they are currently residing. This is a serious issue because it means that the whole idea of returning the displaced people to their homes would collapse and, consequently, would greatly harm Lebanon's interests.

The second solution is to return the Palestinians to the areas from which they were forced out. There are problems involved in such a solution because it would create certain sensitivities. We prefer not to discuss this issue.

The third solution is to provide them with money to buy apartments. However, this solution would completely contradict the rejection of resettlement, because it would signify that we agree to their resettlement. Buying apartments and living in them would mean assimilating them into society. This idea is totally rejected by the Lebanese, particularly the Palestinians of the camps.

The fourth solution involves either building them a new camp or sending them to other camps. There is no doubt that this issue has not been raised. I was surprised to find out that a considerable number of the Palestinians who occupy homes in Beirut have already been distributed to the camps, including the Sabra and Shatila camps. The

United Nations Relief and Works Agency [words indistinct] and they reside in these camps. However, these camps are so crowded that it is no longer possible to assimilate more Palestinians. For this reason and to avoid creating any problems, the refugee affairs minister arrived at this solution. It is inadmissible to raise this serious issue in this frivolous way. This issue does not involve resettlement, which is rejected by all Lebanese people and the government, and we made this clear to all officials of the world, and not only to Lebanese figures. We have conveyed this stance in detail to every official we have met or have contacted and why we reject it. I personally declared this stance. [words indistinct] Certain people are concerned about the current talk on this issue. I am not concerned and consider that all this talk proves that there is Lebanese unanimity on what we have told all world officials. No one can proceed with the resettlement issue, and this issue has not been raised. We are opposed to it, and it is constitutionally unacceptable.

However, we have to find a way to address the issue and house these people. There are various views on how to address this problem. We want to consider them.

[Correspondent] There is information that the size of the camp.... [al-Hariri interrupts]

[Al-Hariri] This is not a camp. When we first raised the issue of al-Dubayyah we mentioned 200,000 square meters. The size of this land is one million square meters and is very cheap. We made an offer and reached an agreement to buy it at about \$7 per meter, which we considered very cheap. The government has housing programs, notably for the displaced people, because one of the problems we are facing is that the people who were displaced 15 years ago have grown in number. A family that included a father, mother, son, and daughter has grown. The son got married and has a family, so does the daughter. The families have grown so much that it is not possible to return them to the camps from which they were forced out. The homes are not big enough. The state is obliged to find homes to shelter these people. In fact, the issue is being tackled by certain parties in a one-upmanship way.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: There has been much talk about these camps.

[Al-Hariri] [interrupting] Impossible. All this is mere talk. This issue was raised for political reasons that have nothing to do with the issue itself. Is the transfer of the camps being dealt with under the table? What nonsense. There are people and they are right in front of your eyes. Pass by and you will see a building in which, for example, 100 families are living, 80 Lebanese and 20 Palestinian families. What do you do? You tell the Lebanese fellow to leave. He gets some money and he either rents or sells. But what will the Palestinian do? Either you let him continue to occupy the building, you find him another place, or you send him to one of the existing camps or to the camp in which he originally lived. On the contrary, Minister Junblatt's idea is to

establish a camp, first to maintain the Palestinian identity and, second, because of the difficulty of returning them to the original places from which they came. That is, very simply, the issue. There are views about how to deal with it. I heard some people, officials, and some ministers say that maybe we should have distributed them among the existing camps. There was in fact a distribution among the camps. I believe that 300 families have gone to the Sabra and Chatila camps. These people cannot be thrown out into the street. We are a democratic country [words indistinct], a democratic country, a country of freedoms and human rights. Yes, they are Palestinians but they have rights. There is no such thing as Lebanese citizens' rights and Palestinians' rights. There are human rights. Therefore, we cannot come and dump people in the streets. This is impossible. As a responsible government, we cannot dump people in the street.

Now, how to deal with the issue? Will a camp be set up for them or will they be distributed among the other camps? I believe that an attempt was made to distribute them and some of them were distributed among the camps. But it appears that the existing camps cannot absorb any more. There is talk that the size of the land is large. This is true, but it is not necessary to use it all for building a camp. Part of it could be turned into a camp and the rest will remain government-owned. It could be given to one of the ministries to build housing. This is state land and was not given to anyone.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: Has this issue been [words indistinct] or at the request of some spiritual leaders so that the Palestinians would not return to Tall al-Za'tar?

[Al-Hariri] Let me tell you. There is a view in the country that it is better not to return the Palestinians to Tall al-Za'tar. We are not insisting that they return to the places they came from. The government wants to solve the problem and not create one. But you cannot throw these people out into the street. Nobody has provided a solution thus far. I hear them say that they are against the resettlement of Palestinians. I am opposed to it as well. I spoke against resettlement with all the world leaders I visited. I told them that resettlement will create a big problem in the country and that Lebanon has, unlike any other Arab country, a unique structure and we cannot tamper with the internal balance, and that is why it is impossible for us to go ahead with resettlement. The basic benefit of what is happening now is this: It has shown all the concerned people in Lebanon that no one can raise the issue of resettlement with us, because this is impossible. This is why I say that I am not annoyed by what is being said, because this backs the government's view.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister. Why was not the issue [words indistinct]?

[Al-Hariri] Let me tell you. The refugee affairs minister has the authority to return people to the places from

which they came. The occupied houses have owners. Right? If he wants to return you to your apartment which is occupied by a Palestinian, he has to solve the problem. Right? This is within his authority. Still, there is nothing to bar the issue from being discussed by the cabinet. I am not against this but, in the end, the refugee affairs minister has the authority to return people to the places from which they were forced to leave; therefore, he has to create conditions conducive to the people's return. He has to find a solution if an apartment is occupied by a Palestinian. He has already found solutions in the past. Hundreds of Palestinian families lived [words indistinct] in some of the existing camps. But there are people with nowhere to go to. What should we do?

[Correspondent] Does this mean that this issue will be included on the cabinet's agenda at its session this Wednesday [31 August]?

[Al-Hariri] There will be no cabinet session on Wednesday, as that day falls on the anniversary of the disappearance of Musa al-Sadr. I will speak with his excellency the president and see if we can hold a session tomorrow. I have not spoken to him about this yet.

[Correspondent] Minister Junblatt has said that he will close down the refugee affairs ministry if the plan is not approved. Could this be true?

[Al-Hariri] I have not in fact heard his statement. Anyway, Minister Junblatt and the refugee affairs ministry are [word indistinct], that is, I do not believe that there is anyone in Lebanon who doubts that Minister Junblatt is the only one capable of returning the displaced persons. This is not an issue of a certain ministry but of Minister Junblatt, who is really capable of solving the problem and who is really cooperating to solve it. When an issue entails returning, housing, and helping people, there will always be some talk. We should not heed this talk. Let us see how tens of thousands have returned to their houses. Let us not forget this. Drive around Beirut, the mountains, and elsewhere and see how many buildings that housed displaced persons have been given back to their owners. The return of displaced persons is continuing and is successful. We all know that this is one of the main signs that the Lebanese war is over. Some people do not want the war to end or the state or government to succeed. So they raise a clamor whenever we do something. I believe there will always be some people opposed to whatever decision the government makes, regardless of whether this decision is right or wrong. They are used to this and I am used to them.

[Correspondent] But there is opposition from within the government. What does this...?

[Al-Hariri] [interrupting] No one. There is no opposition within the government to the principle, but rather to the way it is dealt with. I told you that no one in Lebanon supports resettlement. Not a single minister supports resettlement. I, the president, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the deputies, all the ministers, and

all the parties in the country are against resettlement. The way the issue is being raised is not right. As I said, I am happy with what is being said but not with the way it is being said, because all those concerned with the Middle East issue are convinced that resettlement in Lebanon is impossible and that what the Lebanese Government and prime minister have told world leaders is based on facts, namely, that it is impossible to carry out resettlement in Lebanon. Look at all the clamor raised over the issue of rehousing people. This shows that what we say is true, is based on facts. We are aware of the Lebanese situation and our talk is not oneupmanship. I am not annoyed by all the talk that rejects resettlement, because this supports the Lebanese Government's view. Thank you.

#### More on Al-Hariri Statement

NC3008065194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has denied that there is any foundation in a statement by Palestinian official Salah Salah on naturalizing Palestinians. Al-Hariri said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hariri] One of the rules of Lebanese political life in the past 30 or 40 years was to give the Lebanese Arabs Lebanese nationality. We have given Lebanese nationality to the Lebanese Arab residents of seven villages [words indistinct]. The statement by [Salah] is groundless.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did he say that 27,000 Palestinians have been naturalized?

[Al-Hariri] We naturalized the Lebanese Arab inhabitants of seven villages. Israel occupied this area. Should we leave these people alone? This is unreasonable.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] I will see the president of the Republic this afternoon. [end recording]

#### Saudis Said To Offer Aid To House Palestinians

NC3008082394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The newspaper AL-SAFIR reports that diplomatic circles have affirmed that senior Saudi officials knew of the decision to buy land to house Palestinians. They promised the U.S. Administration that they would offer aid to the plan.

#### Israeli Soldier Killed in Attack in South

##### Islamic Resistance Claims Attack

NC3008081594 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that the Martyrs 'Abbas al-Wazwaz and Nimr Humayyid Group

ambushed a 16-man Zionist foot patrol at 2130 yesterday on the road between al-Burj and 'Ali al-Tahir. Fierce clashes ensued between the mujahidin and the Zionist patrol, leaving all the patrol's members dead or wounded.

AFP cited security sources in the occupied border strip saying that one Israeli soldier was killed and two others were hurt in the attack on the al-Burj-'Ali al-Tahir road. Our correspondent in Tyre sent us the following dispatch:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] At 2145 yesterday an Islamic Resistance group ambushed a 16-man Israeli foot patrol on the road between the enemy positions in al-Burj and 'Ali al-Tahir. Fierce clashes ensued, involving machine guns and hand grenades, just meters from the road. All the patrol members were killed or wounded. An Islamic Resistance Group clashed with a Zionist support force, sending it on the retreat. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

#### Israel Confirms Details of Attack

TA3008054894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] An Israeli soldier, 20-year-old First Sergeant 'Ofer Harush of Jerusalem, has been killed and two others soldiers wounded in a clash in the south Lebanese security zone. With details, Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] The Israeli soldiers, members of the Giv'ati Brigade, were attacked early after nightfall last night as they moved through the eastern sector of the security zone. They were close to the boundary of the zone, just north of the Beaufort Castle, when they ran into a group of Hizballah gunmen. In an exchange of fire at close range, 'Ofer Harush, a 20-year-old soldier from Jerusalem, was killed, another soldier badly wounded, and the officer leading the force lightly hurt. The seriously injured soldier was evacuated to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Hizballah, which claimed responsibility for the attack, said that one of its men had been killed, but it was not clear whether this happened during the clash with the soldiers or as a result of artillery exchanges between Hizballah positions and Israeli and SLA [South Lebanese Army] units, since Hizballah also opened fire on an SLA force nearby. Hizballah fighters have been carrying out daily attacks of one sort or another at locations across the security zone during the month. Earlier yesterday, an SLA patrol narrowly escaped injury when a large roadside charge exploded close to the soldiers as they made their way near al-Rayhan in the eastern sector.

Israeli forces began searching the area of last night's clash at dawn this morning to see if any of the gunmen had been killed or injured and were still in the area. It is believed that the Hizballah squad numbered three or four men. [end recording]

**Reports al-Dirani Relative Arrested Investigated**

*NC2908142994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400  
GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] Following reports in the media that some partisan organs have arrested a relative of Mustafa al-Dirani, who was kidnapped by the Israelis from his village three months ago, and following reports that this relative has been sentenced to death after it was proven that he helped the Israelis in the kidnapping, Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah contacted Judge Munif 'UawydBt and asked him to investigate immediately whether these reports are true and to take, in light of the investigation's outcome, the necessary measures with the relevant security authorities to hand over whoever is proven to be involved in the

kidnapping to the competent judicial authorities and to impose the severest punishment on him.

Justice Tabbarah also asked the judge to keep him informed of developments on this issue.

Hizballah has issued a statement denying the reports attributed to it on this issue.

**President Receives Credentials of Yemeni,  
Brazilian Envoys**

*NC3008080694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430  
GMT 30 Aug 94*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday received the credentials of the Yemeni ambassador accredited to Lebanon, Ahmad al-Mutawakkil, and Brazilian Ambassador (Brian Michael Frazer Nil).

### **Danish Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus To Discuss Peace Talks**

*JN2608192994 Damascus Syrian Arab Television  
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Aug 94*

[Text] Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen arrived in Damascus at 1900 today leading a delegation comprising senior Danish Foreign Ministry officials on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received upon arrival at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian ambassador to Denmark, the Danish ambassador in Damascus, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Danish embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Mr. Petersen said the Middle East peace process will be the major subject of discussion with Syrian officials. He said: We will discuss bilateral issues of joint interest. We will discuss the Middle East peace process, which will be the major subject. He added: We will discuss the region's issues and bilateral ties. He described the bilateral ties as good in many aspects. He added: I believe it is beneficial to have a deep discussion of issues of common interest.

Petersen said his visit to Syria comes within the exchange of visits between him and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and that he looks forward to exchanging views with him.

### **Meets With al-Shar'**

*JN2708132394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio  
Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] Damascus—A round of official talks was held this morning at the Foreign Ministry between a Syrian delegation led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a Danish delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Niels Helveg Petersen. [passage omitted]

Talks focused on developments in the peace process. In this regard, al-Shar' stressed that Syria insists on achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on the Madrid Conference and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Views were in agreement on the need for complete withdrawal in exchange for complete peace.

Talks also addressed relations between Syria and Denmark and means to improve them, as well as ties between Syria and the European Union and the need to strengthen and expand them. In this context, the Danish foreign minister said his country supports efforts to ensure the success of the meeting between the European Cooperation Council and Syria, scheduled to convene in November in Brussels.

### **Confers With al-Asad**

*JN2708181794 Damascus Syrian Arab Television  
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Aug 94*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen and his delegation at the

People's Palace at 1800 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador to Denmark Sulayman Haddad, and the Danish ambassador in Damascus. The talks dealt with the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations.

### **Makes Statement, Departs**

*JN2708205794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio  
Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Aug 94*

[Text] At 2200 today, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen left Damascus, ending a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', other top Foreign Ministry officials, and the Syrian and Danish ambassadors in Copenhagen and Damascus were on hand to bid him farewell.

The Danish minister told SANA his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad were extremely important: The session I had with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad was highly important; I am extremely glad to have visited Syria, where I had a very good talk with the foreign minister. I am now convinced that the Middle East peace process is on track, said Mr. Petersen. He expressed the hope it will keep going and then produce results. I am extremely happy with the state of relations between Denmark and Syria, he said. I came here officially in my capacity as Denmark's foreign minister, and I take pleasure from the fact that I am the first Danish foreign minister to visit Syria since 1978. I have extended an official invitation for Mr. al-Shar' to visit Denmark so we may resume the dialogue that we began here and advance the ties between our two countries.

Relations between Syria and the European Union are being developed, Mr. Petersen noted. The European countries, he added, are anxious to develop their ties with Syria. I fervently hope this will happen, he said.

### **Cypriot, Russian Officials Arrive for Talks**

*JN2608154194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio  
Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Aug 94*

[Text] Cypriot Commerce and Industry Minister Stilianos Koiliaris and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon.

He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Dr. Muhammad al-Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade.

In a statement to SANA, Koiliaris praised the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Cyprus in all fields, describing them as very good.

(Karastin), Russian assistant foreign economic relations minister, also arrived in Damascus today, leading a large economic delegation.

In a statement to SANA, (Karastin) said that during his visit he will continue the talks that were started by the Russian first deputy prime minister during his visit to

Syria in April 1994. He said he will also prepare for the session of joint Syrian-Russian committee. He praised the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Russia.

#### **Khaddam, al-Zu'bi Confer With Visiting Ministers**

*JN2908144794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] At 1100 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Cypriot Commerce and Industry Minister Stilianos Koiiliaris and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Cypriot Ambassador in Damascus Konstandinos Malliotis. Talks during the meeting centered on bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

At 1300 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Koiiliaris and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with existing cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Zu'bi then received Romanian Trade Minister Cristian Ionescu. The meeting was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus. Ionescu conveyed the greetings of the Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who asked him to carry his greetings to the Romanian prime minister. Talks during the meeting focused on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in various areas.

#### **Commentaries View Israeli Actions on Lebanon Track**

##### **Attempt To 'Single Out' Lebanon Seen**

*JN2708145094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 27 Aug 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Contrary to expectations, the peace process has not yet accomplished as much as it should have, given the lengthy period of time since it was unleashed. This is due to the Israeli rejection of both the bases of peace and the substance of the U.S. initiative.

Anyone who hears Israeli officials talking about peace will be astonished. He must wonder: Now that these officials are showing this rush for peace, why hasn't a just and comprehensive peace been achieved? These officials are even deceitfully trying to show that the Syrian and Lebanese position is the reason for the stalled peace process. It does not require much effort to discover, through conclusive evidence and facts, that Israel is responsible for the obstruction of a breakthrough in the peace process. This is especially true thanks to repeated Israeli attempts to undermine the bases of the peace

process and to deprive it of its substance, which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Israel does not want a just and comprehensive peace. It does not want full withdrawal from occupied southern Lebanon, Golan, and the other occupied territories. Israel promulgates limited withdrawals, partial settlements, and an incomplete peace, just like the occasions that represented a serious defect in the peace process and a violation of the bases of the aspired just, comprehensive, and durable solution that will spread security and stability in the region.

Regarding the Gaza-Jericho agreement, events and developments have clearly confirmed the sound Syrian view that cautioned against the consequences of persisting in depicting partial agreements as a peace that could be promulgated as a model. Israel tries to employ this model on the remaining tracks, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, whose simultaneous nature was confirmed in view of their unified cause, objective, and position.

Israeli attempts to show good intentions toward Lebanon and to circulate easy, yet deceitful, solutions are part of a drive designed to drag Lebanon into separate solutions and partial deals, after singling Lebanon out if and when the attempts at fomenting sedition succeed. Israel has not yet stopped attempting to foment this between Syria and Lebanon.

No doubt, everyone knows the objectives of the Israeli game. Israeli officials continue to play it, using new techniques every now and then. However, is it not our right to view these new attempts in a way that goes beyond their short-term objective, represented by the Israeli attempt to single out Lebanon? We can clearly see how Israel employs new methods to evade the requirements of peace, without which peace will not be established. First among these requirements is full withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the Golan. This is the basis that will achieve Arabs' rights, liberate their territories, regain their dignity, and establish the just and comprehensive peace sought by both Arabs and international legitimacy.

Only Israel is rejecting such a peace. It is doing its utmost to undermine the opportunity this is available to achieve peace. But, all the deceitful Israeli attempts will fail to conceal this fact, regardless of how many crocodile tears Israeli officials shed or how much time they spend in their efforts. These officials are trying to bury this opportunity with their own hands.

##### **Bond Between Tracks Asserted**

*JN2808061794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 94*

[From the press review]

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[Text] Under the headline "The Inseparability of Syrian and Lebanese Tracks," TISHRIN says in an editorial: The Israeli claims on secret contacts with Lebanon fall within the framework of the Israeli maneuvers that target the Lebanese position, which is in harmony with the Syrian position. Lebanon sticks to the formula of the Madrid Conference both in form and substance.

The paper says: Israel is seeking to create a nonexistent disparity between the Syrian and Lebanese positions because the two countries have a common view on everything that would help strengthen the positions of both countries.

TISHRIN notes that Israel wants to win recognition from the Arab parties involved directly in the peace process before it ends its occupation of the occupied Arab territories. It also wants to replace the principle of "returning land for peace" with the formula of "peace for peace" through feverish attempts to push each Arab party separately into secret talks away from the principles of the just and comprehensive peace.

The paper says: With this policy, position, and conduct, Israel confirms once again that it is still not interested in peace, or in achieving it or responding to its requirements and ingredients. Nor is it abiding by the resolutions of international legitimacy, on which the peace process was based.

TISHRIN says: Israel will be mistaken if it thinks it can succeed in separating the Lebanese track from the Syrian. When Lebanon stresses the bond between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and when Syria insists on a complete Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, exactly as is the case with the Golan Heights, then this position will undoubtedly strengthen the unity between the Syrian and Lebanese positions and abort the Israeli attempts that seek to separate the two tracks in order to realize certain objectives and intentions. Israel seeks to keep some parts of Lebanese territory, impose its own conditions and dictates on the Lebanese, and realize gains, to which it is not entitled.

#### **AL-BA'TH Calls For Complete Israeli Withdrawal**

##### **Said 'Basic Condition' for Peace**

JN2908074 *ISF Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "True Peace Is Indivisible," AL-BA'TH says: Despite the halt in the peace talks, meetings and consultations are still under way in a bid to break the deadlock and advance the peace process.

The paper adds: It is now clear that the halt in the peace talks is the result of Israel's position. Evidently, the Tel Aviv government does not want to establish a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the Madrid formula.

Referring to statements by Israeli officials, the paper says: Anyone who observes the statements of those officials will realize that Tel Aviv rejects the peace of international legitimacy and is wagering on imposing its own peace; that is, subjugating the region.

Israel thinks peace in the region has been achieved after the Oslo and Washington agreements. However, the whole world knows that what has been achieved is not peace. Rather, it is agreements of submission. Even the U.S. Administration, which almost always shares Israel's views, has asserted that true peace must include all tracks.

The paper adds: For a just and comprehensive peace to be achieved, Israel must first meet a basic condition, which is full and complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. If, however, Israel continues to evade the requirements for peace and circumvent the Madrid formula and the resolutions of international legitimacy—through proposals whose only aim is to achieve what it had failed to achieve in its aggressive wars—then Syria will continue to reject this approach.

AL-BA'TH goes on: True peace, in Syria's view, is indivisible. The requirements and conditions for establishing true peace are very clear. The Madrid conference was convened on the basis of these conditions. If these requirements and conditions are not meticulously implemented, the region can never enjoy peace and security.

AL-BA'TH concludes: No doubt, the whole world is now certain Syria truly seeks to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Toward this end, Syria has done a great deal, as recognized by the U.S. Administration. Syria's conditions for establishing true peace have not changed. Syria only wants the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, as stipulated in the Madrid formula. This means, first and foremost, full and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. If this condition is met, then the peace process will take its right course that will eventually lead to a just and comprehensive peace.

##### **Pullout Said 'Prerequisite'**

JN3008104494 *Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Aug 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses the conflicting statements made by Israeli officials on negotiations with Syria. These statements refuse to address Syria's condition to resume the talks, which is based on a complete withdrawal from the territories occupied by Israel as the indispensable prerequisite for a genuine, lasting peace in the region.

The paper blames Israel for the stalemate in the talks because of the policy of aggression and attempts to disperse the international efforts.

The paper adds: These talks must resume but not on the basis on which the Israelis are basing their rumors. They must resume on the basis on which they were launched in the first place; that is, trading land for peace.

The paper stresses: Land must come first. There is no way for a peace which would not return our occupied territory and force the Israeli aggressor to end his aggression.

The paper says: The normalization that Israel seeks before it withdraws from the occupied territories is not acceptable to Syria. Because land must come first. It is the most important issue and the path that leads to the desired goal.

The paper adds: Syria has attended the Madrid Conference and accepted to exchange land for peace and was clear in specifying its position. It, therefore, will not accept any violation of these principles.

The paper concludes: Instead of spreading rumors or making threatening statements, the Israeli officials should instead respond favorably to the pertinent international resolutions and recommendations, which are based on full withdrawal from the occupied territories and which serve as the prelude to building a genuine peace in the region.

#### **PLO Criticized for Early Empowerment Agreement**

JN3008103594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses the current conditions of the PLO in the light of the agreements it recently signed with Israel. These agreements, the paper says, revealed that 'Arafat is in a real dilemma from which he cannot escape. Therefore, Israel tried to show that it is helping him by giving him certain early powers in certain West Bank areas in order to ease the Palestinian popular pressure exerted against him.

The paper reveals that Israel plans to make the Palestinians shoulder the burdens and expenses of the Israeli occupation. The health and educational services in the West Bank cost Israel large sums of money and caused many problems. Therefore, Israel hurried to move this financial burden to the Palestinians and kept the political decisionmaking in its hands alone.

The paper says the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its results have revealed the PLO's deteriorating conditions and complete submission to the Israeli will. 'Arafat's approval of the recent agreements on the West Bank means that the PLO has completely adopted the Israeli

position, which states that the limited Palestinian self-rule does not cover land, but only inhabitants, as land is for Israel while the PLO can only run the affairs of some Palestinian citizens under the canopy of continued Israeli occupation.

The paper stresses that the PLO has severed its links with its militant history, broken all ties to the Palestinian people's objectives and aspirations, disavowed their sacrifices, and became powerless and heavily chained by Israeli commitments. It, therefore, signed without any trouble the latest agreement, which was drafted entirely by Israel.

#### **Grain Marketing Statistics Reported**

JN3008085294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 1, 11

[Text] Damascus—The total quantity of grain marketed until yesterday in favor of the Grain Establishment reached 3,445,916 tonnes, including 2,672,697 tonnes of wheat, 691,172 tonnes of barley, 80,718 tonnes of barley, and 1,329 tonnes of chick peas.

It is noteworthy, that the quantity of wheat marketed this year exceeded that of last year. Were it not for the bad weather conditions that occurred toward the end of the ripening period this year represented by very high temperatures that had a negative effect on crops, it would have been possible to market more than 3 million tonnes of wheat. Syria stopped purchasing wheat abroad more than two years ago, since it is producing its full needs, which are estimated at 2.2 million tonnes annually.

Syria is considered the second among the developing countries to achieve self-sufficiency in grain.

#### **Cabinet Allocates \$1.252 Billion for Industries**

JN3008130094 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 4 Aug 94 p 8

[All figures as published]

[Text] The sum of \$1.252 billion has been allocated for several establishments belonging to the Ministry of Industry as follows: Barada Metallic Industries Company \$570,000, al-Shahba' Cement Industries Company \$590,000, the second cement company in Aleppo \$590,000, and the Tartus Cement Industries Company \$24,000.

The sum of 97,800 pounds sterling has been allocated for the State Establishment for Food Industries, the sum of 87,700 DM for Damascus Cables Company, and the sum of 2 million French francs for 'Adra Cement Company. According to a decision issued by the cabinet, the total sum will be borne by foreign currency revenues from oil and oil products.

## India

### Rao Invites Foreign Investment in Power Sector

BK2908162894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] The center will encourage private and foreign investments in the power sector to generate over 50 percent of the country's power requirement during the eighth [five-year development] plan period. Addressing a public meeting at Palawalsal village near Vishakhapatnam today, the prime minister said doubts over the country's political stability, credit worthiness, and law and order situation are now removed and foreign investments are pouring in from all corners of the world. Mr. Narasimha Rao was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the 1,000 megawatt super thermal power project being executed under the private sector. The prime minister said the power shortage by the end of the eighth plan period is estimated to around 20,000 megawatts, while tie ups with private investors could be mobilized for only 5,000 megawatts. He said there is an urgent need to augment power generation in a big way to meet the ever increasing demands. Mr. Rao also stressed the need for creating a conducive atmosphere for joint ventures in core sectors like power, fertilizers, oil, and steel. He said the government is seeking direct investment by private sector as it will also enable the government to divert its valuable resources for investment in fields such as education, health, and roads. Allaying apprehensions over the entry of multinationals, he asserted that we are bound to benefit by it as it will help employment generation and check brain drain.

Addressing the gathering, the minister for power, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, called for qualitative improvement in the power sector. The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, M. K. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, in his address appealed to the prime minister to consider the demand for a southern gas grid.

Addressing a public meeting at Vijaywada, the prime minister has said that foreign entrepreneurs are coming forward in a big way to assist India industrially as the economy has opened up.

Speaking to newsmen at Vishakhapatnam, Mr. Salve said the center is working toward a national power grid by integrating the existing grids. This is expected to ensure smooth and uniform power supply throughout the country. This will also remove power scarcity in some states.

### Article Debates Benefits of GATT Agreement

BK2908120094 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 27 Aug 94 p 12

[Article by Abhijit Sen: "GATT—Boon or Bane for India?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The basic thrust of the proposals approved in Marrakech in a move towards free trade. [sentence as published] This is nothing new. Prior to the introduction of the licence and quota system over the past 40 years, India had a long history of free trade. In fact, India was one of the leading trade nations of the world in Colonial times. The trade between India and Britain in those days was more than the trade between Britain and Germany. Indian exports could hold their own in the world market and the rupee was freely convertible into the pound sterling at Rs 10 per pound (compared to Rs 50 per pound today).

During the past four decades, India and almost cut itself off from the international community as far as trade and investment is concerned. The results of such isolation speaks for itself. Instead of being a major trading nation, India's share of world trade fell to a insignificant figure of 0.5 per cent of world trade. The country's trade gap increased every year by leaps and bounds and the rupee, which for the past 100 years had been freely convertible into the pound at Rs 10 per pound became during the period of protectionism weaker and weaker with its value gradually declining to Rs 50 per pound.

Therefore it cannot be said that the protectionist regime of the past four decades has been better than the free trade regime of the earlier period. In fact, some modicum of free trade has been introduced in 1992-93 and this has already had a beneficial impact, with 20 per cent increase in the exports, sharp reduction in trade gap and record level of foreign exchange reserves. The agreement signed in Morocco seeks to further strengthen this favourable trend.

Apprehensions have been voiced in different quarters regarding pharmaceutical prices and seeds consequent on the GATT accord. Pharmaceutical price comparisons have been made between the prices in India and the prices in the Western world and an apprehension has been expressed that signing of GATT will increase the Indian pharmaceutical prices up to western levels. In fact the GATT provisions on product patents covers only about 5 per cent of the pharmaceutical production in India, so 95 per cent of pharmaceutical production is unaffected by signing or not signing the GATT agreement. Even regarding the 5

which may be subject to international product patents, it is not necessary that the prices will be increased to western levels. In fact many products like Coca Cola, toothpaste, soaps, cigarettes, etc., which are produced by multinationals in India under foreign brand names are priced for the Indian market much below the prices charged by the same companies in the western markets. Certainly, in the short period since signing of the GATT agreement, there has been no move by the international pharmaceutical companies to increase their price because of product patents.

In fact, if the prices of medicines have increased, it is due to the 10 per cent extra excise duty imposed in the 1994

budget by the Indian Government and not due to any action of the multinationals.

Regarding seeds, it must be remembered that India's present comfortable food stocks are substantially due to the Green Revolution triggered off by import of better quality seeds two decades back. Therefore, import of high yielding seeds two decades back from abroad is nothing new and its positive impact on the agricultural economy has already been demonstrated.

It has also been clarified that the use of the seeds by a farmer for planting from his own seed production will not attract payment of royalty to any multinational. The current farmer agitation in Karnataka and elsewhere on this issue seems to be based on incorrect presumptions.

Another area on which there has been some controversy is insurance. The GATT provision requires opening up of the Indian insurance market. Such a move will bring an element of competition into the Indian insurance industry which has for too long been a state monopoly.

As a consequence, the premium rates charged by LIC [Life Insurance Corporation] in relation to the sum assured are the highest in the world and takes no account of the sharp increase in the life expectancy between 1956 and today. [sentence as published] Entry or competition in the insurance sector will be similar to the entry of competition into the civil aviation centre. It will force state monopoly to become more customer-oriented and give a better service to the public at large.

While the negative aspects of the GATT provisions are somewhat illusory, there are substantial positive aspects which, it has been estimated, will add almost 1 per cent to the growth of Indian gross domestic product (GDP).

One of the most important benefits to India from the GATT provisions is the phasing out of the multifibre agreement [MFA]. The MFA was a mechanism by which the western countries had put up barriers to exports of textiles and garments from India to the West. Phasing out of the multifibre agreement will remove these export barriers from India; as a consequence, exports of textiles and garments can increase manifold. The export promotion agencies and the Commerce Ministry should take effectively steps to realise the export potential so that the opportunity is not snatched away by other textile producing countries who are also eyeing the same markets.

Computer software is another area which has great potential to benefit from the GATT agreement. Already, computer software export has emerged as a major foreign exchange earner. The GATT agreement will reduce the restriction that western countries put on movement of computer software professionals. As a consequence, software exports from India are expected to grow even faster in the years to come.

India is reputed to have the third largest pool of scientific and technical manpower in the world, but so far,

commercially applicable research has not been forthcoming from the various Indian laboratories in spite of expenditure of about Rs 5,000 crore per annum on these laboratories. At the same time, the multinational companies carry out some of their most sophisticated research in laboratories located in their home countries but utilising a huge number of scientists of Indian origin. While it would be much cheaper for the multinational companies to base their research activities in India and use Indian scientists in India rather than recruit them in the West, they have so far been deterred from doing so because of the poor trade mark and patents protection in India.

If the patents and trade mark laws in India are strengthened consequent on the GATT agreement, many multinationals would be encouraged to locate part of their research activities in India and export the research services back to their home countries. This trend has already started in computer software and could extend to numerous other fields once the laws related to intellectual property rights in India are suitably strengthened.

There exists in the near future a very real possibility of proper utilisation of the huge pool of scientific and technical manpower available in India, thereby increasing employment opportunities, export earning as well as the country's scientific and technological capability.

Those who oppose the free trade envisaged under the GATT agreement are basically arguing for a continuance of the closed economy that India has had between the 1950s and 1991. It is evident that with this experiment India has lagged far behind its neighbours in South East Asia in economic development.

Surely no sane person would advocate that we should continue to follow the same policies which have driven India downwards, whereas our immediate neighbours have prospered with a different set of policies.

If, however, we continue to be stuck to the past and refuse to see the realities of the world around us, India will get pushed further and further into isolated backwaters. The choice before us is starkly this—do we wish to emulate Burma or do we wish to emulate Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore?

#### **ISRO Spokesman Denies PSLV Launch Postponed**

*BK3008025094 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] An ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] spokesman has said that no decision has been taken to postpone the launching of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV D-2, scheduled for next month. PSLV-D2 has the capability to place an 850 kg remote sensing satellite into the polar sun-synchronous orbit.

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## Iran

### Velayati Comments on Peace Plan in Interview

NC2908062494 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] In an interview with the Madrid-based EL PAIS, Foreign Minister Velayati said that the new wave of propaganda attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran stems from Iran's opposition to the imposed peace plan in the Middle East. EL PAIS yesterday cited Velayati as saying: Tehran was not surprised when only hours after the explosion in Buenos Aires, officials of the Zionist regime identified Iran and the Hizballah as the perpetrators of the explosion because this is the policy of the Zionist regime, which wants to inflict pressures in this way on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Hizballah for their opposition to the Middle East compromise process.

Commenting on why the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes the Arafat-Tel Aviv compromise, Velayati said: We believe that most of the Palestinians oppose this peace and will not gain their rights through this means.

The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran rejected any involvement by Iran in the Buenos Aires explosion. He said: The Iranian Government wants to have good relations with Latin American countries. It has always opposed terrorism. It is very clear that America and Tel Aviv are seeking every possible pretext to accuse Islamic Iran and to inflict pressures on it.

### Yazdi's Friday Sermon Deems ICPD 'New Conspiracies'

NC2608143794 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1105 GMT 26 Aug 94*

[Arabic sermon of the Friday prayers by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judiciary, in Tehran on 26 Aug—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate;

Brother Muslims everywhere; before anything else, I greet you on the honorable birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, the savior of mankind and the last of all prophets and messengers, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, his family, and comrades.

We all know that Islam appeared at a time when mankind was on the verge of collapse, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula. The Almighty has presented us with a clear picture of the traditions and customs that prevailed among the Arab inhabitants in the pre-Islamic era, both in the cultural and intellectual and in the social fields. Historical and explanatory texts give as a detailed account of these traditions. Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be on him, came as a sign of mercy to mankind to change this world fundamentally.

He introduced mankind to the monotheistic instinct and the cosmic vision that suited it. He opened to humanity the doors of bliss and rationality.

Today, 14 centuries after the advent of Islam and after Islamic history has gone through several eras and different phases, we see earth teeming with Muslims, with over 1.2 billion Muslims living in the East and West. We are pleased to say that during the past century, and thanks to the progress made in industry and means of communication, Muslims were naturally given the opportunity for more cohesion and solidarity among themselves. Muslims returned to their original nature and gained more interest in Islam and Islamic principles. Muslims today know that Islam is a comprehensive and integrated global religion that responds to all man's needs.

Today Muslims know that Islam is not limited to mere worship rituals; it extends to politics and the ruling process. Today Muslims know that Islam adopts all economic, social, cultural, and military programs. It adopts all that a human society needs. Today Muslims know that subordination to atheism and polytheism and [word indistinct] atheists is rejected, illegal, and prohibited for Muslims and that Muslims themselves have to run their affairs as best they can. Today Muslims know that the desired experience of Islamic rule that appeared in early Islam has repeated itself after so many centuries on the land of Iran under the leadership of the late Imam His Eminence Khomeyni. He laid the foundation for this blessed state. Here it is today, thriving and being run under the leadership of the guardian of the Muslims' cause and their great leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God preserve him.

Legislation under this Islamic rule is based on Islam. Laws are enforced on the basis of Islam. Even the judicial authority operates in accordance with Islamic shari'ah. In this system, only the norms established by the Koran and the teachings of the Prophet represent the terms of reference. [passage omitted]

While we see contemporary Muslims reawakening and going back to the purity of Islam, we see the enemies of Islam trying to destroy that strong edifice with every possible method. Every day they plot new conspiracies and schemes. The last of these is the population and development conference [International Conference on Population and Development—ICPD] to be held in Egypt. Fortunately, this conference was widely condemned and denounced by al-Azhar scholars, Muslim representatives in Egypt, religious associations, and key Muslim officials in all states.

Regrettably enough, America has not stopped using obsolete methods to achieve its goals. It writes to Islamic governments, asking them to stop objecting during discussions and threatening these governments with a cut in its aid if they fail to respond.

The reply to all these plots lies in unity, steadfastness, resistance, and the preservation of all heavenly values.

We are certain that during the joyful celebrations being held to mark the birth anniversary of the last of all prophets, the selected Muhammad, may God's prayers be on him and his family, all Muslims consider such issues among themselves. This leads to more cohesion, coordination, and strength in Muslim ranks.

The Almighty said: "And hold fast all together by the rope which God stretches out for you and be not divided among yourselves. And remember with gratitude God's favour on you; for ye were enemies and he joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace ye became brethren. And you were on the brink of the pit of fire and he saved you from it. Thus doth God make His signs clear to you that ye may be guided." [Koranic verse]

In the name of God; the Merciful and Compassionate, "To thee have we granted the Fount. Therefore to thy Lord turn in prayers and sacrifice. For he who hateth thee, he will be cut off." [Koranic verse]

May God's peace and mercy be on you.

#### **Editorial Criticizes Cairo ICPD Conference**

*NC2808143394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Aug 94 pp 1, 15*

[Editorial: "All Are Responsible"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] is to be held in Cairo shortly. At first glance, it appears that this conference, like many other similar ones all over the world which will review regional and international issues. And, naturally, the subject of "population," its effects, and repercussions on the growth and development of countries will be assessed during this session. All specialists will air their views and ultimately there will be a judicious wrap-up from an expert point of view.

If the ICPD conference were to take place within this context, it would naturally be welcomed. However, the reports and news received indicate that the Cairo session has a distinctive bias which will indicate official support for unbridled sexual behavior, freedom of abortion, denying the rights and obligations of parents, society, and the government regarding family ethics in preserving and protecting social health, thus trampling all social ethics underfoot.

Such an approach cannot be construed as that of a responsible government and would push human society into moral degradation. It would result in the disintegration of the family unit and would lead the younger generation away from the course of a healthy, humane, and natural life.

In addition, the preamble of the draft resolution openly rides roughshod over all teachings and divine injunctions, and falls within the framework of "anti-religious

action." It is not merely a "nonreligious decision" but stresses the eradication of the role of religion and divine injunctions as guidance during the various phases of a person's growth and exaltation.

The importance and sensitivity of the issue becomes apparent when we see the extensive reaction in favor and against such a notion and which persons, countries, or forces are opposed or in favor of such a staggering concept.

So far, the Christian and Muslim authorities and the officials of some countries have taken clear stances on the issue. The Vatican, and the Pope, who is the leader of the Catholics of the world, have stated their categorical and multifaceted opposition to these ideas and have clarified that these measures will culminate in moral degradation and the disintegration of the very bases of society.

In the Islamic world as well, the intelligentsia and the thinkers have gradually voiced their opinions in this regard and so far the Al-Azhar university has proclaimed its serious and principled opposition to the document's preamble, explaining that it considers it to be in contravention of the divine tenets and injunctions. It also stresses that the propagation of such a viewpoint will result in further decadence in human society.

The International Ahl-e Bayt Society has also issued a statement on its basic opposition to such perceptions and appraises it as a step toward the implementation of the destructive programs of the powers of world arrogance geared to the degeneration of human society. It emphasizes that these sinister international actions testify to the depth of the extensive moral catastrophe threatening the world. It says the destructive hands of Zionism can be seen behind these criminal efforts.

Let us see who are in favor of these viewpoints and who will benefit from the formulation, approval, and implementation of such a baleful course of action.

In a surprising move, the United States has threatened that every country which opposes the proposed ICPD resolution and the proposals incorporated in it based on unbridled sexual freedom, freedom to abort fetuses, and freedom to indulge in homosexual behavior will be deprived of U.S. economic assistance. This U.S. threat is precisely aimed at the Islamic and Third World countries, who will probably display the most serious and principled opposition in this regard.

The choice of the Islamic country of Egypt, with its clear Islamic and revolutionary orientation, to propose such shocking issues also raises questions; it cannot be considered merely coincidental. The main point is that the depraved Cairo regime is ready for any such treachery merely to please its masters.

On the other hand, this emphasis and the irate attitude on the part of Washington clearly indicates that the United States has special intentions in implementing

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such decisions. In the first stage, it is optimistic that it will be able to obtain the mandate for such extensively immoral and misanthropic actions at an international forum, regardless of the price and even if it has to resort to individually threatening and luring the countries.

Today, it is clearly evident that the ostensibly sympathetic remarks of the U.S. hierarchy and their expressions of concern regarding moral decline and the proliferation of corruption and lasciviousness in the United States is a false front regarding a calamity that threatens the very fabric of American society and is eroding it from within like a termite.

From the point of view of logic, it is quite incomprehensible that the Washington Administration should not only be unconcerned about the moral decay in American society, but also encourage its spread to the international level. Realization of the dimensions of this international conspiracy heightens the responsibility of the free-thinking people of the world and the adherents of all revealed divine religions, as well as all responsible human beings. It highlights their ceaseless obligation to declare the principled viewpoints of all the followers of divine faiths and noble thinkers to all the people of the world.

Everyone should take responsibility, including the relevant officials, the heads of state, administrators, decision-making centers, thinkers, intelligentsia, judges, authors, orators—in brief, all those who have a conscience and a sense of responsibility with regard to the today and tomorrow of human society.

With their articulate, cogent, and poised remarks, and with forceful reasoning, they should rise to combat these enemies of humanity; they should defend the truth and the voice of truth, and not permit morality and the ethics of mankind, nations, and posterity to be crushed so mercilessly under the pressure of a handful of debauched and deviant individuals.

#### **Rafsanjani Receives ICO Secretary General**

*LD2808165494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 94*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], tonight. During this meeting the president said: The Islamic world expects the ICO and Islamic countries to play a more active role in helping to resolve the problems of the Islamic world, including Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The ICO secretary general gave a report on the activities of this organization, particularly in connection with the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis, and asked for Iran's active participation at the ICO's extraordinary session in Islamabad, Pakistan, as well as at the Morocco session.

#### **Habibi Comments on Departure for PRC**

*LD2908054594 Tehran IRNA in English 0521 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] Tehran, 29 Aug (IRNA)—First Vice-President Hassan Habibi left here for Beijing Sunday [28 August] night for an official visit at the invitation of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng.

Habibi, heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, is to review Tehran-Beijing mutual ties in economic and cultural fields.

Prior to his departure Habibi told reporters that during his visit he will discuss key regional and international issues with Chinese officials.

Asked whether he was carrying any message, Habibi said: "We are carrying the message of friendship for the expansion of bilateral ties."

Stressing that the visit will have great impact on Tehran-Beijing cooperation in various fields, Habibi said that the two sides will review proposals already set forth by both countries.

Ministers of Oil and Commerce, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i and Yahya ol-Eshaq, as well as several deputy ministers are accompanying Habibi in his China visit.

#### **Significance of Delegation's PRC Visit Noted**

*NC2908065794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] With the visit by a high-ranking delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by First Vice President Habibi to China, the two countries' relations have entered a new phase. This delegation's visit to Beijing and Habibi's talks with high-ranking Chinese officials are expected to have a constructive effect on the two countries' relations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the PRC enjoy significant strategic positions in Asia and have many common points of interest in many fields. The visits by high-ranking Iranian and Chinese officials to the two countries' capitals during the past few years, especially after the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, have led to the expansion of Tehran-Beijing relations.

Among the major elements that have consolidated Iranian-Chinese relations during the past years are the two countries' close stances and cooperation in international forums. The two countries' efforts to increase coordination vis-a-vis major problems in the Third World and in confronting U.S. plots are examples of this cooperation.

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Iranian-Chinese economic relations have constantly

expanded in line with the two countries' political relations, and the volume of trade between the two countries during this period has expanded.

During the recent visit by Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to our country, trade between the two countries reached \$710 million, which is the highest volume between China and Iran in the history of the two countries' relations. Also, during this visit several memoranda of understanding on the export of Iranian oil, steel, and non-oil products to China; the construction of various factories such as cement plants; and China's long-term investments in Iran were signed. Undoubtedly, this will have an outstanding impact on the expansion of the economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

At any rate, in view of the significant talks that the Islamic Republic's delegation is to hold with high-ranking Chinese officials in Beijing, relations between these two large Asian countries are expected to expand even further.

#### **Paper Decries 'Anti-Muslim' Sentiment in France**

NC2708081494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English  
17 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "France Has No Right To Denigrate Islam"]

[Text] France is once again deeply involved in the affairs of its oil-rich former North African colony of Algeria. French-Algerian connections were not totally severed after the revolution of 1962. Algeria continued economic relations with its former colonizers, as the two nations' economies had become heavily dependent on each other.

In the early post-revolutionary decades, Algeria was governed by leaders who were still full of nationalistic and revolutionary zeal. But lately the new generation of Algerian leaders has begun to fall under the influence of their former colonial masters.

The French, hoping to regain some of their lost power in Algeria through economic colonialism, were instrumental in creating a chasm between the government and the people of Algeria. They achieved this goal by encouraging Algerian leaders to secularize their government and promote French cultural, social and political values. This was not done to 'liberate' Algeria from 'religious constraints' to facilitate industrial and economic progress, as the French apologists claim. It was done in order to re-direct Algerian consumer habits in line with French economic needs, and to guarantee a lucrative market for the products of French manufacturers.

To reach this objective, Paris encouraged and supported dictatorships in Algeria. This French policy was quite successful in alienating the government of the North African country from its masses, thereby making the dictators totally dependent on the French for their very survival. It also ensured the continuation of Algeria as a ready market for French products.

In a democracy the government is elected by the people. As soon as there was enough freedom in Algeria, the people went to the polls and ousted the French-supported regime. But, before the democratically-elected representatives could take over, the Algerian military, with the full support of France, declared the elections null and void and assumed power. Any fair-minded and objective observer will admit that French behavior in Algeria is tantamount to interference in that country's internal affairs.

The majority of the five million Muslims living in France are Algerians. They have participated in the building up of the French economy and have contributed to that country's prosperity. But under the French system, the Muslims are not even allowed to practice their religion freely, or show support and solidarity with their brethren in Algeria.

There is also a new wave of anti-foreign, especially anti-Muslim, sentiment spreading in France, the country that considers itself the birthplace of individual freedom. Slogans of these Neo-Nazi groups are full of racist and anti-Islamic rhetoric. They preach, and practice, murdering Muslims.

In an interview with a French radio station in Paris yesterday, referring to Algerian Muslims living and practicing Islam in France, French Defense Minister Francois Leotard said "On our territory, we will be pitiless...people with these ideas will not be allowed to create disorder in France...we will not accept that from a perfectly acceptable religion with much culture, comes murder, ethnic and religious hatred." Considering the fact that Colonialism is a direct result of racism, and remembering France's colonial history in North Africa, Leotard's statement is ludicrous.

In the radio interview, Leotard also stated that "Islamic fundamentalism is as dangerous today as Nazism once was."

Islam is only dangerous to those who want to enslave other human beings. The religion was brought to mankind by the Prophet Muhammad (S) to free all human beings from the bondage of ignorance which is the cause of prejudice and bigotry. Comparing Islam with the Nazi movement is not only offensive, it is also totally inaccurate.

France's colonial history in Algeria, and Paris' current interference in Algeria's internal affairs, deprive France of any right to complain about the way Algerians, and indeed all Muslims, feel about the French. Furthermore, Leotard should look up his own country's colonial history before comparing other people with the Nazis.

#### **Benefits of Turkmen Ties Examined**

NC2608102694 Tehran HAMSAHRI in Persian  
23 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "History Takes Its Course"]

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[Excerpts] Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov is arriving in Tehran today at the head of a high-ranking delegation to participate in the five-sided [Iran, Turkmenistan, Russia, Turkey, and Kazakhstan] session which will discuss the installation of a gas pipeline to Europe. He will also discuss bilateral economic and political relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran with his counterpart Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

Geopolitical realities and international relations on the whole have made it necessary to understand the strategic importance of Iran and of the Central Asian countries. At a time when we have instability in Russia on the one hand and the suspicious objectives of Washington and its regional satellites to infiltrate Central Asia on the other, what more favorable neighbor than the Islamic Republic of Iran can there be for the five countries concerned as far as the establishment of relations in all fields is concerned? Deep-rooted cultural and historic ties; Iran's unquestionable geographic position as the best and closest bridgehead of contact between Central Asia and the south, the west, and even the east; and Iran's sincere wish to establish relations with these countries not on the basis of "influence and power" but on the basis of friendly cooperation and equality are all elements that make friendship between these countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran "irreplaceable."

Also, the common security interests of both Russia and Iran in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Afghanistan has necessitated these two countries' cooperation for the comprehensive growth and development of the newly independent countries in the former Soviet Union, especially when U.S. infiltration in this region is in no way to the benefit of the security of any of the regional countries.

The plan for setting up the largest intercontinental gas pipeline, which will carry gas from the heart of Asia to the west of Europe, will undoubtedly create new grounds for the revival of the "silk route" with the same economic, cultural, and historical significance and will grant all the countries involved in this project the possibility to set up a system based on peaceful coexistence coupled with the spirit of multilateral cooperation and assistance toward the progress and development of the region in general. In the midst of this, the pivotal role of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially as far as its neighbors in the north is concerned, is such that even its enemies admit it. Cooperation with the Republic of Turkmenistan as the fourth largest gas producer of the world with an annual output of 80 billion cubic meters of gas in the gas pipeline project can be the start of a new life for the Central Asian nations that will ultimately lead to their economic and social development. The path toward this progress passes through Iran. And it seems that despite all obstructionism and plots, history is taking its course.

#### **Bosnian Official Cited on International Assistance**

*LD3008080994 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT  
30 Aug 94*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubljankin has praised Iran as one of the biggest providers of assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina and criticized countries that have given lip service to his country.

Interviewed by the daily 'TEHRAN TIMES', published Tuesday, Ljubljankin said that Iran has promised to deliver 100,000 tons of oil to his country which he termed as "very concrete" assistance.

Ljubljankin left here Monday after attending the seminar on 'Bosnia-Herzegovina: Future Prospects.'

Stating that Iran has always supported the Bosnian people during time of difficulty, he said that his country could always depend upon the Islamic republic.

The Bosnian foreign minister said that his country has also received some assistance from Malaysia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and lauded Germany for agreeing to accept 400,000 Bosnian refugees.

Meanwhile, he added, "Britain and France were the two countries supporting Serbia on the basis of creating a balance of power for the stability of Europe."

Turning to the Russian role in the conflict, he said that its participation was important in relation to overall solution of the problem as they were the traditional friends of Serbia. He emphasized that the Russians could influence Serbs in this respect.

The Bosnian foreign minister said that the Russians were there to preserve their sphere of influence in the region in addition to maintaining access to the Adriatic Sea.

"The Russian presence cannot be considered an obstacle but rather a catalyst towards a compromise between the warring faction," he said adding, "Anyway the Russians are here. Consequently, we have to respect this fact."

He added that they were trying to balance their actions regarding the Russian presence in the hope that they will positively contribute to the solution of the problem.

Ljubljankin said that the Bosnian conflict developed from the Serbian national program considered to be the basic factor in the initiation of the war.

The Bosnian official said that the war had not come to an end because the program had not yet come into its final stages.

He noted that the war in Bosnia would only come to an end when his country took steps to neutralize the Serbian national program and when the country can effectively prevent the Serbs from carrying out their objective of ethnic cleansing.

**Air Link Established With Tashkent***LD2608174494 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT  
26 Aug 94*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA—On the auspicious birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA) the Tehran-Tashkent return flight was inaugurated Friday.

According to the director general of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airline, Seyyed Razeqi, air links to Central Asian countries is among Iran's priorities.

**DOI Official Explains Defense Industry Plans***LD2908102794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of  
Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT  
29 Aug 94*

[Text] The Defense Industries Organization [DIO] will modify 75 percent of the defense industries' manufacturing capabilities, machinery, and other resources used for military hardware by the end of the second socioeconomic and cultural development plan.

The director general of the DIO, affiliated to the Defense Ministry, speaking at a news conference today, said in this connection: Thanks to the termination of the imposed war, the task of modifying the country's defense industries in the DIO began in the year 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989], and the work progressed from 12 percent modification in the year 1368 to 45 percent during the current year. He added: In line with changing military industries to nonmilitary industries, 10 percent of the profit made from nonmilitary products is allocated to research in new military technology.

Speaking about the future activities and the type of this organization's nonmilitary industries, the DIO director general said: The DIO's agenda includes manufacturing industrial products, supplying raw materials—including copper, steel and brass—to factories, car manufacturing, producing various chemical substances and household goods, and manufacturing industrial machinery. All this has made a considerable profit for the state and has greatly helped the expansion of the country's nonmilitary industries.

**Yazdi Appoints New Judiciary Officials***LD2708153394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program  
Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 Aug 94*

[Text] In a number of edicts issued by the head of the judiciary, a new president of the Supreme Court and state prosecutor general have been appointed.

In the edict issued by Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi to Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani, the new president of the Supreme Court, Yazdi said that in view of his past record and performance in previous posts: I am certain

that the cooperation of the noble strata of judges and your own efforts and perseverance will improve the trend of protecting the rights of the public, promoting justice and defeating injustice, and bringing the desired order and speed.

In his edict appointing Mr. Morteza Moqtada'i to the post of the state prosecutor general, the head of the judiciary has wished Mr. Moqtada'i success in his new post.

The head of the judiciary has also expressed gratitude to Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi for his services as the previous state prosecutor general and has appointed him to the post of judicial adviser.

**Launch of Independent Communication Satellite Set***LD2908182194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of  
Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT  
29 Aug 94*

[Text] The managing director of Iran's Communications Organization announced: Launching the Islamic Republic of Iran's independent communication satellite, named Zohreh, presents no financial or technical difficulties.

Speaking today to Iranian and foreign reporters, he said: In view of the vastness of Iran's territory which has high mountains, forests, and desert areas, the presence of an independent satellite can bring all of the country's blind spots under communication and television coverage.

He added: If the country's political officials approve, the satellite will be launched into its designated area.

**Satellite TV Stations Establish Operations***LD2908153094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program  
Network in Persian 1430 GMT 29 Aug 94*

[Text] On the occasion of the sixth day of the Government Week, which has been designated as the day of energy, communications, and the flourishing of industry, 72 satellite television stations have started operation in different regions of the country.

According to a Central News Unit reporter, with the installation of this equipment a large number of rural areas in different provinces now receive coverage of programs broadcast by the first and the second networks of the Vision of Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranian experts employed by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's department of FM and television transmitters have done all of the necessary work on the installation and operation of these stations.

It should also be noted that by the end of the current year [year ending 21 March 1995], 280 satellite television stations will begin operation in various parts of the country.

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